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DH

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Putin warns of expanded Ukraine offensive if terms rejected

Page 12

World
US adds 20 more countries to travel ban, restrictions list P.12

Business
India may see 7% growth: Gita Gopinath P.13

State
Revenue deficit may widen P.4

Sports
India tops dope positivity list P.15

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Bengaluru Thursday, December 18, 2025 Pages 20 Vol 78 No 348 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

'Homebound' makes it to Oscar shortlist

Neeraj Ghaywan's movie makes it in best international feature film category

Page 7

BJP says revenue minister 'usurped' 21 acres, KBG refutes

Oppn alleges papers fudged; minister says 'ancestral' land

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The Opposition BJP demanded Wednesday the resignation of Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, counted as one among the 'cleanest' faces in the Congress government, accusing him of usurping 21.16 acres of land in his family's native Kolar district.

While the BJP said it had documents to back the claim, Gowda refuted the allegation and said the land was "ancestral property". He also said he would cooperate with an independent investigation.

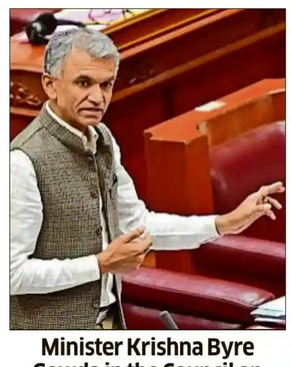
The allegation pertains to survey numbers 46 (20.16 acres) and 47 (one acre) at Garudanapalya village, Narsapura hobli, in Kolar.

The Record of Rights, Tenancy, and Crops (RTC) furnished by the BJP purportedly shows the names of Gowda and his family members as joint holders of the 21.16 acres. Mutation — the process of recording change in land ownership — was done in April last year.

The saffron party's claim is that documents were fudged to help Gowda's family get the land.

"According to original documents dating back to 1978, survey number 46 was lake land. Nobody can lay claim on lake land," Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, said.

▸ KBG, Page 5



Minister Krishna Byre Gowda in the Council on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Hebbalkar apologises

Women & Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar on Wednesday apologised for providing wrong information to the Assembly on payments under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, but not before the Opposition raised a furore and finally walked out.

Details on Page 3B

LS clears Bill on pvt role in nuclear power

Oppn slams SHANTI Bill's provisions, walks out

KALYAN RAY & SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday cleared the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill that seeks to open up the closely guarded nuclear power sector to private industry, with Union Science Minister Jitendra Singh declaring it as a "stakeholder-friendly bill", even as the Opposition staged a walk-out criticising the Bill's provisions.

The minister said the Bill would be necessary for India's growing energy needs because of the target of 100 GW of installed capacity of nuclear energy by 2047 that would be just about 10% of India's total electricity requirement.

The SHANTI Bill seeks to repeal the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability to Nuclear Damage Act 2010 that currently govern the nuclear-sector. Also, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has been given a statutory position as the existing AERB was set up by an executive order and not by a law.

Currently, the civilian nuclear power sector is completely under government control with the state-owned Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd producing 8.7 GW from 24 operational reactors.

The Bill was passed by a voice vote after Opposition parties criticised its provisions. Senior Congress MP Manish Tewari tore into the draft law saying that the ruling BJP was undermining India's energy independence and clean energy goals by breaking a 2010 consensus on nuclear liability regime.

Tewari said there was a consensus in 2010 to make the supplier liable for nuclear accidents by making provisions for the operator's right to recourse. Such a provision, he said, was incorporated as it was felt that with foreign suppliers coming into the sector, this provision was important and it was supported by the BJP.

▸ N-power, Page 5

Sparring over SHANTI

- Minister says Bill necessary for India's growing energy needs
- Cong MP Manish Tewari accuses BJP of undermining India's energy independence
- Tiwari says Bill breaks a 2010 consensus on nuclear liability regime
- Minister contends that clause dropped as foreign collaborators had reservations

"If a nuclear accident takes place, since we are dependent on foreign suppliers...shouldn't the supplier be liable?
Manish Tiwari
Cong MP

Oppn MPs: Amend G RAM G Bill

Several Opposition MPs submitted amendments to the VB: G RAM G Bill 2025 seeking to replace the draft law's name back to MGNREGA and removing provisions mandating the states to share financial burden of the scheme among others.

Details on Page 7

Apartment assn in the dock for collecting Rs 3L fines for crimes

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kumbalgodu police have registered a case against the apartment owners' association of a residential complex near Doddabele in western Bengaluru for allegedly collecting fines from residents indulging in criminal activities and for hushing up the offences.

The FIR named Provident Sunworth Apartment Owners' Association; Tyko Security Services, the firm offering security services to the apartment premises; managing director and staff of Tyko Security Services; Chandrahasa, the chief security officer, and the president, secretary, treasurer and unnamed members of the association.

> In the last few months, they have issued fines to residents, especially students, ranging from Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000 for offences like illegal substance use...When such offences occur, they should've informed the police, which they haven't done
>
> **ANITHA B HADDANNAVAR**
> DCP, South West

DH has reviewed a copy of the FIR, filed suo motu by the police on December 16, following a petition by a whistleblower, who requested anonymity.

According to a police statement, the association, by misusing its byelaw, collected fines — a total of Rs 3.30 lakh in three months — from those residents engaging in criminal activities like drug consumption and illegal substance use, theft and even serious offences like sexual harassment.

The association is further accused of letting the culprits go scot free, hiding such offences from the jurisdictional police. Police officials said the security agency was hand-in-glove with the association, and hence, its officials were also booked.

The security agency is accused of unlawfully questioning the residents, collecting the fines and letting them go.

▸ Apartment, Page 5
Related report, Page 3A

Man dies on road after passersby ignore wife's pleas for help

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 34-year-old man who was on his way to the hospital after he suffered a heart attack, died on the road in Bengaluru after he met with an accident, even as passersby ignored his wife's pleas for help.

The victim, Venkataramanan, is said to have suffered a heart attack around 3.30 am on December 13 and two private hospitals refused treatment, his wife alleged.

A video of the victim's wife pleading for help to shift him to a hospital went viral on social media, prompting citizens to question onlookers' the lack of humanity.

Venkataramanan's wife Roopa said after they met with an accident on the way to the Jayadeva hospital, she begged passersby for help, but no one obliged. After waiting in vain for help for nearly 15 minutes, he passed away by the roadside, she said.

Details on Page 2

TIES TANK P 6

Protest: India summons B'desh envoy

India summoned on Wednesday Bangladesh's envoy in New Delhi and lodged a protest after a radical organisation staged a protest outside the Indian High Commission in Dhaka. New Delhi has also shut the visa application facility at the Dhaka office. New Delhi has asked the interim government in Dhaka to ensure the safety of India's missions.

PRICEY SHEEN P 13

Silver price crosses Rs 2L per kg

Silver prices on Wednesday breached the record Rs 2 lakh-per-kilogram mark in the national capital for the first time, driven by strong demand in domestic and global markets. The white metal jumped by Rs 7,300 to hit an all-time high of Rs 2,05,800 per kg on Wednesday, against the previous closing level of Rs 1,98,500 per kg.

CAPITAL CHOKES P 10

Delhi smog: SC allows curbs on old vehicles

In view of the worsening pollution in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court on Wednesday modified its August 12 order – which stayed coercive action against diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years – as it clarified that action can be taken against vehicles not meeting emission standards.

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Man dies on road; wife says two hosps didn't treat for heart attack

He was driving 2-wheeler fast to hospital; couple fell down

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 34-year-old man lost his life on the city roads on his way to hospital after suffering a heart attack. A video of the victim lying on road while his wife begs passersby for help has gone viral.

According to Roopa R, wife of Venkataramanan, the victim, they rushed on a two-wheeler at around 3.30 am on December 13 after he complained of chest pain.

However, they were denied treatment at two hospitals in the city and met with an accident on the way to Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, Roopa alleged.

"At the first hospital, they said that the doctor was not available and redirected us to the second hospital. At the second one, they did an ECG and confirmed that my husband had suffered a heart attack. However, they did not provide any basic care and instead, asked us to go to Jayadeva hospital," she told *DH*.

No help from passersby

After the accident, Roopa begged passersby for at least 15 minutes to help her shift Venkataramanan to hospital. However, none of them obliged till a cab driver stopped to check on them.

"He was in a lot of pain and hence, was driving very fast to reach hospital. When we fell down, he was alive. In fact, he was checking for three to five minutes if someone came. If any of the passerby had helped us immediately, he would have definitely survived," Roopa said.

At the third hospital where Venkatramanan was brought with the help of the cab driver, he was declared dead.

The incident has left citizens in a shock, with many questioning medical negligence and poor response by passersby to the ailing man.

DH reached out to the second hospital the couple had visited, asking why they failed to provide basic treatment to the patient. The hospital refuted the claims.

"As soon as heart attack was confirmed, we gave him a loading dose. We provided him with all basic care. However, we have no expertise in cardiac health. Hence, we asked them to shift to Jayadeva. Since our ambulance was out attending a patient, we asked them to wait for a few minutes till we arranged one. However, they rushed away even without taking our prescription," a representative from the hospital said.

Roopa, however, said her husband would have been alive if the hospital had given basic treatment.

Venkataramanan worked as a mechanic and is survived by his wife, a five-year-old son and an 18-month-old daughter. Amid shock and grief, the family has donated his eyes.

"I wanted to donate his organs as well, but doctors said it was not possible," Roopa said.

Monumental Kannada dictionary by scholar released

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kannada Shabdartha Kosha (dictionary), a monumental scholarly work by distinguished scholar and writer, the late T K Anantanarayana, was formally unveiled at Indian Institute of Culture here on Wednesday.

Among those present at the release were: Nadoja Dr Go Ru Channabasappa (writer); writer and critic Dr Na Someshwara; Aarathi H N, programme director, DD Chandana.

The speakers paid rich tributes to Anantanarayana, a former government school teacher, whose comprehensive work was authored between 1930s & 1960s.

The dictionary stands as a capstone to decades of dedication to the language, they said.

A particularly poignant highlight was the acknowledgement of the author's sons, Prof Dr A Sreenivasan (80) and A Pattabhiraman (77).

Their sustained commitment, quiet perseverance and academic guidance were instrumental in painstakingly completing the final compilation, preservation and publication of their father's lifelong scholarly endeavour, ensuring that this intellectual legacy reached the public.

Kamaraj Road connecting Cubbon Road to MG Road is likely to reopen to traffic soon. The road has been shut for five years for Namma Metro work. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Kamraj Road metro work drags on as year-end footfall rises

BENGALURU, DHNS: Incomplete works on Kamaraj Road, which connects MG Road and Commercial Street, are yet to be fully completed even as the city's popular shopping destination has begun witnessing an increase in footfall over the past few days.

While MG Road attracts large crowds for the New Year celebrations, Namma Metro does not appear to be in a hurry to complete the project in time.

More than five years ago, a crucial portion of Kamaraj Road was blocked on both sides to facilitate the construction of the underground Metro line and a station. Initially, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) had announced that the road would be closed for only three years, but the Metro authorities managed to open only one side of the 250-metre stretch after five full years.

In June this year, officials had assured that the other side would be opened within a month, but the road continues to be barricaded as on Wednesday.

Opening the road is crucial to easing traffic congestion, especially on Cubbon Road, Dickenson Road and MG Road, as vehicles are currently taking detours to reach Brigade Road or Residency Road.

A BMRCL official said workers would need about 15 days to complete the remaining work. This includes installing handrails, improving the median, erecting signage, and painting the road. "The rest of the work is completed," the official said.

Going by the deadline set by BMRCL, Kamaraj Road will be ready only after the New Year celebrations are over.

BMRCL Managing Director J Ravishankar did not respond to calls.

Woman booked for 'harassing' police inspector

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Ramamurthy Nagar police registered a case against a woman for allegedly harassing a police inspector. She is accused of sending him a love letter 'written in blood'.

The FIR was registered on Dec 12 under BNS Sections 132 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 351 (criminal intimidation) & 221 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions) after a complaint by Sathish G J, 45, inspector at the station.

The suspect, Sanjana alias Vanaja, was arrested and remanded in judicial custody, officers said.

According to the FIR, Sathish received a call on Oct 30 from Sanjana, who claimed she loved him and that he should reciprocate. "I blocked 10-11 phone numbers," it said.

He said Sanjana told him she was a Congress worker and knew the home minister, CM and DCM and would get his work if needed.

Sathish said he received a call from the office of the home minister and DCM, asking why he wasn't taking a complaint from Sanjana.

As per the FIR, Sathish said the woman hadn't visited the station and filed a complaint and instead was behaving inappropriately, and if she filed a complaint, he would take it.

On Nov 7, a woman claiming to be Sanjana visited the office and handed him a package. In it, Sathish found tablets and two sheets of paper, one of which claimed she would die by suicide if he didn't accept her love. The second had 'CHINI LOVE you, you love me' written in blood.

On Dec 12, she visited the station and threatened him that she would die by suicide if he didn't accept her love.

Appointment of Pharma students

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Health department will appoint 1,000 diploma pharmacy holders, who have passed out in the last two years, as pharmacists on contract basis for 11 months with fixed stipend. In the order issued by the government, the department said, this is being done to reduce gap between education and employment. At present, state has 3,000 posts of pharmacists and around 50% of them are vacant. The Finance department has given approval to appoint 400 pharmacists.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Application Notification No.: 565/M-UTS Sahayak-2/SBC/2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications from Retired Railway Employees / General Public of Bangalore Division for Engagement as M-UTS Sahayak at KSR Bengaluru City Station over Bengaluru Division for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through M-UTS on recharge bonus basis for the period upto 31.08.2026.

Name of the Station	Number of Vacancy
KSR Bengaluru City	03

Last Date and Time for submission of Application: From 10.00 hours to 15:00 hours of 19.01.2026

For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Bengaluru

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division

Tender Notice No. GEM/2025/B/6997234, Dated: 12.12.2025

E-Tenders are invited by the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Salem - 636 005 for the following work

Name of work: Outcome Based Comprehensive Cleaning Contract at Tiruppur Railway Station & Colony, Mettuppalayam Railway Station & Colony & Coonoor Railway Colony for a period of 730 days inclusive of garbage disposal	
Estimate Value	₹ 2,17,37,811/-
Earnest Money Deposit	₹ 2,58,700/-
Tender Closing Date and Time	02.01.2026 at 20:00 hrs.
Web address	https://www.gem.gov.in

The firms registered in GeM Portal are only eligible to participate in this tender.

For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal "https://www.gem.gov.in"

For Details about scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal "https://www.gem.gov.in"

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderers to check any Corrigendum is issued for any correction; deletion or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website and the same shall be taken into account while uploading the tender. For further details please visit website at "https://www.gem.gov.in"

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Salem - 636 005

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES

No. E-28/2025

The Following E-Tenders / Corrigenda are Published in IREPS Website. Firms are Requested to Login to **http://www.ireps.gov.in-login>E.Tender-Goods&Services (New)** and Quote against these Tenders. Manual Quotations will not be Entertained for these Tenders. **Closing Time for all Tenders 14:30 Hours.**

SL. NO.	TENDER NO	DESCRIPTION	DUE DATE	QUANTITY
1	03255638	RC FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF PRETENSIONED PRESTRESSED CONCRETE (PSC) 1 IN 8.5 SWITCHES	05/01/2026	92 SETS
2	90257684	COMPOSITE PANTRY EQUIPMENTS	05/01/2026	50 NOS
3	90256490B	ONE COACH SET OF 180KN AIR SPRING ASSEMBLY	05/01/2026	31 SETS
4	69255510	SIEMENS LOCO SPARES.	05/01/2026	2 ITEMS
5	06251120	SHELL GADUS S5 V 42 P 2.5 GREASE	06/01/2026	2610 KGS
6	03255649	RATE CONTRACT FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF CHECK RAIL BLOCK	09/01/2026	10400 SETS
7	04250342	OVERHAULING KIT FOR DISTRIBUTOR VALVE	12/01/2026	1983 SETS
8	16255008A	EOT Crane 50/10 Ton Capacity	12/01/2026	1 NO
9	11250379	SOLID CORE PORCELAIN STAY ARM INSULATOR 1050 MM	12/01/2026	4859 NOS
10	16255016	CNC SURFACE WHEEL LATHE (BG)	12/01/2026	3 NOS
11	52256908A	BOGIE LOAD TESTING MACHINE - 50 TON	12/01/2026	1 NO
12	44250516C	NON-ASBESTOS 'L' TYPE COMPOSITE BRAKE BLOCK	22/01/2026	64742 NOS
13	03255630	RC FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF 10MM THICK COMPOSITE GROOVED RUBBER SOLE PLATES	23/01/2026	100000 NOS
14	03255661	RC FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF PRETENSIONED PRESTRESSED CONCRETE (PSC) SLEEPER	30/01/2026	156 SETS
15	03255642	RC FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF 6MM THICK NYLON CORD REINFORCED GROOVED RUBBER SOLE PLATES	04/02/2026	2906 SETS
16	03255660	RATE CONTRACT FOR MANUFACTURING & SUPPLY OF 1 IN 8.5 WELDABLE CMS CROSSING BG	11/02/2026	156 SETS
17	03255663	RC FOR GLASS FILLED NYLON-66 (GFN-66) INSULATING LINER	13/02/2026	2000000 NOS
THE FOLLOWING E-BID HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN GEM WEBSITE. FIRMS ARE REQUESTED TO LOGIN TO www.gem.gov.in AND QUOTE AGAINST THE FOLLOWING E-BID. MANUAL QUOTATIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED				
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CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER NOTICE NO.E-26/2025, SL.NO.9, TENDER NO. 11255010 DUE ON 02/01/2026, ITEM: JOINTLESS GROOVED COPPER CONTACT WIRE 107 SQ.MM

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MDI Building, 2nd floor, HEC Campus, Dhurwa

Ranchi-04Tele Fax : 0651-2331828

Email: dirjhakhandtourism@gmail.com/ jtdcltd@gmail.com

Ref.No. :- 1270/2025 **Date : 16/12/2025**

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

RFP for Selection of Suitable Player for Development, Operation, Maintenance and Management of 4 Star or Higher Category Hotel at Deoghar, Jharkhand on PPP Mode (2nd call)

The Jharkhand Tourism Development Corporation Limited (JTDCL), Governmentof Jharkhand (GoJ) undertaking intends to publish RFP for **Selection of Suitable Player for Development, Operation, Maintenance and Management of 4 Star or Higher Category Hotel at Deoghar, Jharkhand on PPP Mode(2nd Call).**

The detailed RFP document can be downloaded from the below mentioned website : **https://jtdcl.jharkhand.gov.in**, and submit their offline Applications.

The applications Submission Due date is on or before **01/01/2026 at 5 pm** and the date of opening of the tender on **02/01/2026 at 2 pm**. Allsubsequentnotifications, changes and amendments will be posted only on the above website.

Sd/-

PR 368762 Tourism, Art Culture Sports And Youth Affairs (25-26)_D **Deputy Director**

झारखण्ड सरकार ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

कम्बाईण्ड बिल्डिग, प्रथम तल्ला, एल0सी0 रोड, धनबाद

ई– निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा संख्या:- 12/**RWD/DHANBAD/25-26** दिनांक :- **16.12.2025**

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, धनबाद द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	प्रखण्ड	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेण्डर कॉल संख्या
01	DMFT 33/25-26	निरसा	श्यामपुर पंचायत के थापरनगर स्टेशन (खुदिया नदी ब्रिज) से फाटक तक पथ निर्माण कार्य	131.831	एक करोड़ एकतीस लाख तिरासी हजार एक सौ	09 माह	प्रथम
02	DMFT 34/25-26	निरसा	मदनपुर पंचायत के सिमुलडंगा गॉव से महतोडीह तक पथ निर्माण	202.337	दो करोड दो लाख तैतीस हजार सात सौ	09 माह	प्रथम
03	DMFT 32/25-26	कलियासोल	पाथरकुआँ हरि मंदिर से नारी पहाड़ी तक पथ निर्माण कार्य	42.223	बियालिस लाख बाईस हजार तीन सौ	06 माह	द्वितीय

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:– 22.12.2025
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:– 29.12.2025 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:– 31.12.2025 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, धनबाद, पिन– 826001
6. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0326–3554757

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

PR 368848 Rural Development(25-26)D

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, धनबाद।

Research Development and Innovation Fund (RDIF)

-an independent business unit under

ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

(Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India)

(ANRF/RDIF/02/2025)

The Government of India has approved to set up a ₹1 Trillion Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) scheme aimed at spurring private sector-driven R&D ecosystem. Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Science & Technology is the nodal agency for implementation of the scheme. RDI scheme will operate through a two-tiered funding structure. At the first level, a Special Purpose Fund (SPF) referred to as RDI Fund has been established within the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), which will serve as the custodian of the ₹1 Trillion corpus. The Fund will channel capital to Second-level Fund Managers who can be Alternative Investment Funds (AIF), Development Finance Institutions (DFI), Non-banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), among others which will provide financing to Private sector in the form of long term low interest loans or equity.

RDIF will be an Independent Business Unit within ANRF. The Governance structure of RDIF includes the Executive Council (EC) of ANRF, an EAC serving as an expert committee of the FC, and a Management Team led by the ED, RDIF in an operational role which will be distinct from the core functions of ANRF. The ED, RDIF will be responsible for the overall management of the RDIF. The EC shall be the appointing authority of ED, RDIF and other members of the Management Team. ED, RDIF shall report to the EC of AN R F.

RDIF invites applications for filling up of the following positions, to set up a RDIF Management Team to implement the RDIF Scheme:

	Name of the post (Contractual positions)	No of posts	Compensation per annum
1	Executive Director	01	₹1.20 crore to ₹1.50 crore
2	Director (Investment)	01	₹1.0 crore to ₹1.20 crore
3	Director (Partnerships & Market-Making)	01	₹1.0 crore to ₹1.20 crore
4	Director (Finance)	01	₹1.0 crore to ₹1.20 crore
5	Principal (Partnerships & Market-Making)	01	₹ 40 lakh -₹48 lakh
6	Senior Financial Manager	01	₹ 40 lakh -₹48 lakh
7	Senior Legal Manager	01	₹ 40 lakh -₹48 lakh
8	Senior Administrative Manager	01	₹ 40 lakh -₹48 lakh
9	Principal (Investment)	01	₹ 40 lakh -₹48 lakh
10	**Associates/ Sr. Associates**		
	(i) Senior Associate	01	₹ 40 lakh -₹48 lakh
	(ii) Associate	01	₹ 30 lakh -₹36 lakh
11	Analyst	01	₹10 lakh

- The detailed advertisement containing other details like Eligibility criteria, Age, Educational Qualifications, Experience, Selection process, Terms & Conditions of the Contractual appointments, **How to Apply** etc. is available on our websites: **www.serb.gov.in / www.dst.gov.in / www.rdifund.anrf.gov.in**

Haw to Apply

Eligible and interested candidates may apply online through the web portal at **https://recruitmentrdif.anrf.gov.in/** along with uploading, in the portal, of:

- Updated CV (pdf format)
- Statement of purpose, outlining their experience and suitability for the role (pdf format)
- **The last date for receipt of applications is 15 January, 2026.**

Sd/- JOINT SECRETARY, ANRF, Government of India, New Delhi.

CBC 36130/11/0005/2526

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Pr. Chief Medical Officer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India invites tender through e-tendering for the following work: **Name of work:** Supply of Medicines, Surgical, Consumables, Pathology & others items from Vendors, i.e. firm/distributor/Chemist Shops, on Emergency basis through local purchase at TSMH, Metro Railway, Kolkata for 02 years. **Closing date & time:** 06.01.2026, 15.00 hrs. (IST). **Validity of offer:** 731 days. **Website particulars: https://www.ireps.gov.in.**

Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: MRTS-MED-LP-25-27R

Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

SOUTH INDIAN Bank Date: 16.12.2025

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

CANTONMENT BRANCH
#10, Infantry Road Cross, B. M. Complex, Opp. Blue Cross Chambers, **Shivajinagar, Bangalore 560 001. Ph: 080-46005898**
Email: br0009@sib.co.in, www.southindianbank.com

The Gold Articles pledged under the following number/s at Bangalore Cantonment Branch, which are not cleared by payment of Bank's dues even after serving registered notice and Gold articles pledged under same number against which registered notices have been served/returned undelivered, will be sold in **public auction or private treaty on as is where is condition** at Branch premises as under or any other convenient date and time without further notice at the risk and responsibility of the pawners, if they are not released from the branch.

Auction of Gold ornaments pledged under the following accounts will be held at Branch premises on 02.01.2026 at 4.00 P.M Branch : Cantonment, Shivajinagar, Bangalore.

Sl. No.	Name	A/c No.	Gross Wt (in gms)
1	H.S. NAMITHA	0009653000065095	82.2
2	H.S. NAMITHA	0009653000065096	18.7

Bank reserves its rights to cancel/ adjourn the auction without giving any reason at any time. *Sd/-***Manager**

Corporate Office Regd. Office: SIB House, T B Road, Mission Quarters, Thrissur, Kerala - 680001
Telephone Number : + 91-487-2420020, Fax Number : + 91-487-2420020, E-Mail : sibcorporate@sib.co.in, Website : www.southindianbank.com. Corporate Identity Number: L65191KL1929PLC001017

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India

3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110003

Invitation of applications for hiring of Junior Research Associate (Tariff)/ Consultant (Tariff)/ Junior Consultant (Regulatory) (Total Nine (09)) in Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) invites applications from eligible candidates as Junior Research Associate (Tariff)/ Consultant (Tariff)/ Junior Consultant (Regulatory) (Total Nine (9)) for attending work as per Terms of Reference (TOR). Candidate with requisite qualification and experience as prescribed would be hired in the respective category as per vacancy indicated. Vacancies are liable to be changed without any prior notice and without assigning any reason whatsoever.

2. The details including eligibility criteria, Terms of Reference (TOR) etc. are available in vacancy notice published on the AERA's website: **www.aera.gov.in** Last date of receipt of application is **07.01.2026 upto 5.30 P.M.** Applications to be submitted as per details/mode mentioned in the vacancy notice. Applications received after due date and time will not be entertained.

Deputy Chief
Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India,
3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport,
New Delhi - 110003

CBC 03112/12/0015/2526

JAMSHEDPUR NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE

New Kalimati Road, Sakchi-831001

E- mail ID-jnacjsr@gmail.com

E- Procurement Notice
Tender Notice
NIT No- JNAC/27/2025-26 Date-17.12.2025

1.	Name of the work	Faecal Sludge and Septage Management Under Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee (JNAC), Hurlung Jamshedpur. (5th Call)
2.	Estimated Cost (rs.)	Construction cost :- ₹ 3,02,32,094.00 Operation & Maintenance cost :- ₹ 31,17,705.00 Total cost :- ₹ 3,33,49,799.00
3.	Cost of Bid Document (INR)	INR 10,000/- (Ten thousand Only) Non-Refundable.
4.	Bid Security (INR)	Bid Security: Rs 3,33,497.00
5(a).	Time of Completion	1 year including one month of trial run.
(b)	Defect Liability Period	Defect liability period 1 years after satisfactory completion of project.
(c)	O&M Period	1 year after satisfactory completion of project.
6.	Date/Time of publication of tender on website	22.12.2025 at 05:00 PM
7.	Document downloading Start date	22.12.2025 at 05:00 PM
8.	Pre bid meeting date, Time & venue	26.12.2025 at 03:00 PM, JNAC Conference Hall
9.	Bid Submission Start date	27.12.2025 at 05:00 PM
10.	Bid Submission end date	19.01.2026 at 05:00 PM
11.	Bid Opening date	20.01.2026 (Online) 03:00PM
12.	Mode of Submission of bids	E-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
13.	Name and address of office inviting tender	Deputy Municipal Commissioner, Jamshedpur Notified area Committee, Jamshedpur.
14.	Contact No. of procurement officer	Mr. Ajay Kumar Yadav, A.E, J.N.A.C
15.	Helpline No. of E-procurement cell	9572649415

Note- 1. Only E-tender will be accepted, further details can be seen on website (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)

PR 368814 Urban Development(25-26).D

Deputy Municipal Commissioner, Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee, Jamshedpur.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/156/2025 Dated 04.11.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Conducting final location survey for New line between Shivamogga - Sringeri - Mangaluru (332 km), Talguppa - Honnavara (95 km), Alamatti - Yadgiri (162 km) and Bhadravathi - Chikjajur (73 km). **(Tender Ref.No. SWR-FLS-RATECONTRACT-03)**	Rs. 33,52,62,609/-

Date of Closing

Existing	Revised
15.12.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)	24.12.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantt.

PUB/738/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Karnataka Minority Commission: Minority Rights Day; speech by B S Patil; Zameer Ahmed Khan, U T Khader and Rizwan Arshad to participate; D Devaraj Urs Bhavan Auditorium, Vasanth Nagar; 11 am.

CMS Business School of Jain (Deemed to be University): International conference on 'Advances in Computational and Experimental Approaches in Aero Structures'; V Narayan, I S Raju and Sameer Kamath to participate; CMS Business School of Jain, Gandhinagar; 9 am.

Jana Urban Space Foundation: Workshop on 'Nature-based Solutions for Bengaluru' – discussion on sewerage system; Shwetha Pandey, Maheshwar Rao and Nitya Ramesh to participate; Turf Hall, Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel, Race Course Road; 9.30 am.

Sindhu Bhairavi Kala Thanda Trust: Play Guru Shishyaru by Gandharva Seva Kala team; Nirashrithara Parihara Kendra, Magadi Road; 3 pm.

Margam School of Performing Arts: Bharatanatyam performance by students of the school; Nanjangud Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, Jayanagar; 5.15 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.7°C
Minimum	18.7°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm	88%
Sunset (Dec 18)	5:57 pm
Sunrise (Dec 19)	6:35 am
Moonrise	4:08 am
Moonset	3:44 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Sharp objects, mobile phones found in prison

BENGALURU, DHNS: Continuing the crackdown, the prison officials on Tuesday searched the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison and found sharp objects and mobile phones, officials said.

According to a statement by the Prisons Department on Wednesday, the searches, carried out between 8.15 pm and 8.50 pm, yielded six mobile phones, five SIM cards, two chargers, four earphones and five sharp objects resembling knives. The officials said that between November 11 and December 17, eight FIRs have been registered related to the use of prohibited items inside the prison premises.

Multiple raids held over the past month have yielded 79 mobile phones, 16 chargers, 59 SIM cards, 14 earphones, 18 sharp objects, two packs of cigarettes, 60 grams of prohibited items and Rs 64,880 in cash, the department said in the statement.

Bus stops now closer to Yellow Line stations

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BMTC has provided new bus stops and relocated existing ones closer to Metro Yellow Line (Rashtreeya Vidyalaya Road – Delta Electronics Bommasandra).

The existing bus stops that have been relocated are: Electronic City, Hosa Road, Ragigudda, Jayadeva, BTM Layout, Bommanahalli, Kudlu Gate, and Infosys Foundation Konappana Agrahara. They are within 100 metres of the Metro stations. However, at Huskur Road and Delta Electronics Bommasandra, bus stops could not be relocated due to space constraints.

New bus stops: Biocon Hebbagodi; Beratena Agrahara; Singasandra; Hongasandra; Central Silk Board and RV Road.

Man held for extorting money from businessmen

BENGALURU, DHNS

Byadarahalli police on Wednesday arrested a man, who is suspected to have criminal antecedents, for allegedly extorting money from two businessmen.

The arrested is Magadi Manju. According to the police, Manju and his accomplices waylaid Mukesh Bhai and his relative Jama Bhai, engaged in supplying gutka products, on December 15, a little after 11.30 pm near Magadi Main Road.

The suspects allegedly damaged the car using a rock and also assaulted Jama Bhai. The businessmen were then forcibly taken in a car to a petrol bunk, where Manju allegedly dialled the victims' landlord and demanded Rs 10 lakh for their release. As per the FIR, the victims were later dropped near BEL Layout, and the suspects fled after stealing the Rs 2 lakh from them. They also left behind the gutka products in the damaged car.

"We have some information that the prime suspect, who is arrested, has a criminal history. It is being verified and further probe is underway," a senior police officer told *DH*.

Police have invoked BNS Sections 115 (Voluntarily causing hurt), 118 (Voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 308 (extortion), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 351 (criminal intimidation) and 126 (wrongful restraint) against the suspects.

DH
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P. S. Goenka Memorial Education Trust
6th Cross , 11th Main, R.K. Layout, Padmanabhnagar Bengaluru – 560070
CBSE Affiliation No: 830137, Phone no : 080 - 26391509
OPEN DAY
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20/12/2025
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Sanskriti Exhibition Highlights
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Robotics & Innovation Models
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Century Systems
Chronicle PharmaBiz - Saffron Media Pvt. Ltd.
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Dhanush Engineers LLP
EEPC India
EPS Technologies
Epson India Pvt. Ltd.
Eroberer Pvt. Ltd.
FSP Technologies
Global Vision (Pharma Machines & Technologies)
Green Aquatech Services
Gupta Textile
H One Global Technology Pvt. Ltd.
Innovative Labsol
Jashmine Enterprises
Jashmine Unitech Pvt. Ltd.
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Leistung Engineering Pvt. Ltd.
Lennox Cleanair Technologies
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Mactus Automation Pvt. Ltd.
Malati
Maruti Steel Alloys
Minitab-Qsutra
Murphopye Scientific Equipments Pvt. Ltd.
Network INC
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Nishka Research Pvt. Ltd.
Noxair Engineering Pvt. Ltd.
Oriental Engineering + Instrumentation
Ostech Fluid Technologies
Osworld Scientific Equipments Pvt. Ltd.
P V Corporation
Pal Pharma Machinery Pvt. Ltd.
Pharma Vac Distributors
Prachi International Lights
Precicoat Pumptronix Engineering Pvt. Ltd.
Proclean Tehno Equipment
P-Tech Project & Services
Quality Equipments
R.S. Technology (India) Systems
Radiant Stainless Limited
Rahul Ferromet & Engineering Pvt. Ltd.
Raj Polymer
Research Delta Advisors
Respo Products
Riviera Glass Pvt. Ltd.
Roar Infotech LLP (Pharma Click)
Royal Machines
Sahani Engineers Pvt. Ltd.
Sanitt Equipment & Machines Pvt. Ltd.
Sanyoi Technology India Pvt. Ltd.
Sattvam Life Science Pvt. Ltd.
Scientific Research Instruments Company Pvt. Ltd.
Shakthi Innovative Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
Sharad Micro Die And Engg. Works
SHK Polymers Industries Pvt. Ltd.
SHREE RENUKA MEDITEC
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Sri Kamakshee Enterprises
Srivin Engineering Company
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SV Scientific Pvt. Ltd.
The Council of EU Chambers of Commerce In India
Thermolab Scientific Equipments Pvt. Ltd.
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Cleanchem Laboratories LLP
Embiotic Laboratories (P) Ltd.
Group Pharmaceutical Limited
Herbo Nutra Extract Pvt. Ltd.
Invision Pharma Limited
Karnataka Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Manufacturers' Association (KDPMA)
Kedar Drugs And Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.
Kerala Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (KPMA)
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Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils Presents Bhumika Club Powered by manipalhospitals

Bhumika Club gathering for women on Sat

BENGALURU, DHNS: The 14th Bengaluru edition of Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils presents Bhumika — Powered by Manipal Hospitals is coming up on Saturday. The Club is an initiative by Deccan Herald and Prajavani, and aims to provide women a platform to engage with and network among one another.

Dr Poonam Patil, a consultant in Medical Oncology, Immunotherapy, and Precision Medicine at Manipal Hospitals, will headline the event with a talk on health and wellness. Performances will feature a Bharatanatyam recital by the students of the Padmini Priya Nruthya Kala Academy, a music concert by Anagha M, and a stand-up comedy set by Varshini. Chandana Lakshmikanth will lead a Zumba session. A cookery contest and an opportunity for networking will follow.

To register, call 9035036186 or scan the QR code.

Various contests will be held for the audience, where one lucky contestant will win a water purifier worth Rs 15,000, and another will get two VVIP passes to the Prajavani Cine Sammaana Awards 2026. Ten other winners will walk away with free couples' movie tickets at a multiplex.

On December 20, 4 pm, at Indiranagar Club, HAL 2nd Stage. Entry free.

To register, call 9035036186 or scan the QR code.

Apartment assn collected Rs 3.3L 'fine' in 3 months

With 'collect to condone offence' bylaw, it was a law unto itself

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA & ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Provident Sunworth Apartment Owners' Association, being investigated by the police, had collected Rs 3.3 lakh in three months for serious criminal offences and hushed it up, according to a whistleblower.

Police suspect the collected fines from residents of the apartment located near Kengeri may be higher.

DH has accessed details of fines collected, mentioned in the whistleblower's formal complaint to the official email ID of city police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh on December 6.

In July 2025, the association collected Rs 30,000, Rs 20,000 and Rs 30,000 from seven residents and one visitor for 'illegal substances'. In August, Rs 30,000, Rs 25,000, Rs 30,000, and Rs 30,000 were collected from five residents for 'using drugs or involving in such activities'. In one incident in August, Rs 30,000 fine was marked as "pending".

In October, Rs 50,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 30,000, Rs 25,000 and Rs 20,000 were collected from three visitors and two residents for "having illegal substances in flat".

"Many of the offenders were college students. There was an incident in which one resident had kissed a maid. It was hushed up after Rs 20,000 was collected as fine. The fines were levied based on the mood of the member or financial capacity of the offender," the whistleblower told *DH*. "There is no provision in law for a byelaw to charge fine for any offence. As per the byelaw, the association is responsible for maintaining the property and is not a judicial authority to levy fine".

RWAs become alert

Following the FIR, apartment associations are proactively reminding residents to report criminal activities directly to police, not RWA authorities.

"As a preventive measure, we've reminded our residents that RWAs do not have authority to collect fines and condone criminal activity. While we can have our own byelaws and collect fines, this does not apply to criminal activities," said Krishna Kumar, president of the owners' association at Purva Palm Beach Kyalasanahalli.

The apartment byelaws are drafted as per provisions of the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act (KAOA), 1972, and model byelaws given under the KAOA rules, 1974.

It provides for amendments to byelaws based on due process, which is passing byelaws & subsequent amendments in the agreement.

The managing committee, duly elected following the provisions of KAOA, is the custodian of all common areas and facilities, along with collecting maintenance, said Vidya Goggi, member of Bangalore Apartments Federation and past secretary of Whitehouse Association, RT Nagar.

"When there are frequent habitual violations that impact adherence to statutory laws, RWA can add penalty provisions as decided through the byelaws process," she said.

HC restrains tree cutting at Cantonment rly station site

Order to withdraw bio heritage tag challenged

BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court on Wednesday passed an interim order stating that no tree will be cut or damaged on the premises of the 8.61 acre site, opposite the Cantonment railway station in the city.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha passed this interim order in a PIL filed by former legislator A T Ramaswamy, challenging the December 6, 2025 notification, withdrawing the biodiversity heritage tag to the subject land.

The bench ordered notice to the union ministry of environment, forest and climate change, ministry of Railways, state government, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, KSPCB and others.

The petitioners have challenged the notification issued by the state government withdrawing the September 10, 2025, notification whereby a 8.61-acre green area was declared a biodiversity heritage site under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The petition said that the Railways' property was a 'green space' in the heart of the city and part of the Cantonment railway station, but bifurcated by a road.

The 8.61-acre land (34,856 sq ft) is rich in biodiversity and consists of 371 trees.

According to the petitioner, the website of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority has not been updated after the May 29, 2025, meeting, including the 328th meeting of the state expert appraisal committee, deliberately to conceal the minutes of the meeting in respect of the property in question.

The petitioner said the decades-old green space is a haven for birds, which is being sought to be used for commercial purposes by the Railways.

The tree officer issued a public notice dated April 25, 2025, calling for objections regarding the felling of trees, the petitioner said, adding that work is underway in this regard.

On the other hand, Additional Solicitor General Arvind Kamat, appearing for the Railways, submitted that at the moment, no steps are taken to cut any tree.

He said that an application had been made to the tree expert committee and only once the expert committee grants permission, any further step will be taken.

Recording this submission, the division bench adjourned the matter to February 13, 2026.

The authorities have been directed to file their statement of objections by the next date of hearing.

GBA: Poll panel sets 110-day deadline to finalise electoral roll

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The State Election Commission (SEC) has set a total of 110 days to complete the process of finalising the electoral roll, which is crucial for holding elections to the five municipal corporations that come under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

The commission came up with the revised schedule following delay on the part of the state government in finalising the boundaries for 369 wards.

As per the new schedule, the officers involved in the electoral roll preparation are expected to complete the backend work such as e-roll generation, checklist of ward wise electoral roll and printing of draft rolls by January 17.

The revision activities such as publication of draft electoral rolls, house-to-house verification through block-level officers, disposal of claims and objections and verification of final checklist as per ward wise electoral rolls will be taken up between January 19 and March 14. The final publication of the ward wise electoral roll will be announced on March 16.

This is the second time the commission had to revise the schedule as the Karnataka government delayed the preparation of draft and final delimitation of ward boundaries by a month's time.

Once the final electoral roll is in place, the commission requires about 45 days of time to hold the elections. In all likelihood, Bengaluru's five municipal corporations – which come in place of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) – will be held in the month of May.

In the meanwhile, the government also has the obligation of announcing reservation for the wards, which includes reservation based on gender and community (Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes etc). Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had announced that 50% of the 369 wards will be reserved for women candidates.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao confirmed that the commission has shared the revised schedule. "We are confident of meeting the schedule given by the commission. Our officials have also been trained to undertake the exercise," he said.

The elections to Bengaluru's municipal body have been pending for over five years and the last time Bengalureans elected their councillors was in mid-2015. In the absence of elected council, a lot of citizens had to either directly reach out to civic body engineers or MLAs for addressing their grievances and not all citizens had the privilege of getting this access easily.

INFRA WORK INCONVENIENCE

Metro work slows down traffic on outer ring road, Nagawara, on Wednesday.
DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

HC directs NWKRTC to pay interest on delayed leave encashment payment

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a relief to several retired employees of the North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), the Dharwad bench of the high court has directed the corporation to pay 6% interest on delayed payment of leave encashment.

"In the event the Corporation would not pay the said amount within 12 weeks, the petitioners would become entitled to interest at 9% per annum, from the date the payment fell due, till the date of its payment," Justice M Nagaprasanna said.

The petitioners, drivers, conductors, traffic controllers, office assistants and artisans, had retired from service between 2020-2022. The leave encashment amount was paid to them after a delay, ranging from two years and beyond from the date of retirement. The petitioners sought 9%-10% interest on the delayed payment.

On the other hand, the corporation placed before the court a detailed statement of assets and liabilities as on August 31, 2025. The corporation stated that the outstanding liabilities exceed Rs 1,700 crore encompassing several statutory and loan obligations. It was further submitted that since it had suffered losses post Covid-19 lockdown, it was willing to pay a lower interest.

After perusing the statement of objections, along with balance sheets and government orders relating to the corporation as well as the Apex Court judgments in the matter, the court noted that retirement benefits are no longer considered a bounty. Therefore, the Corporation is bound to pay interest on any delayed payment of terminal benefit, the court said.

Justice Nagaprasanna noted that the corporation was compelled to borrow Rs 2,000 crore only to meet its salary obligations. This was compounded by the economic fall out of the pandemic and a strike that the Corporation employees undertook in 2022.

"Later, comes the policy of the State of free bus travel. This undoubtedly added to the dent that had been caused to the economic status of the Corporation as a result of the onset of Covid-19. The loss that ensued to the Corporation during Covid-19 for a period of two years appears to have continued till today. While the wisdom of policy choices is beyond judicial scrutiny, particularly in these proceedings, their economic impact on the Corporation cannot be ignored," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court further said, "The balance must be struck between the right of employees to be compensated for delay and the financial realities confronting a Public Corporation sustained by public funds. Wherefore, I deem it appropriate to direct payment of interest by the Corporation on every delayed payment of leave encashment not at 10%, not at 9%, not at 7% and not even at 5.48% as is projected by the Corporation, but at 6% per annum, which would be just and equitable and legally sustainable, which aligns with various factors viz., the judgment of the Apex Court, several judgments of the coordinate benches, the judgments of the Division Bench of High Courts of Madras and Delhi, prevailing bank interest rates and the financial condition of the respondent Corporation."

Koramangala- like waste processing units in all Assembly segments

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K N Ramesh said that steps would be taken to establish waste processing units similar to the Koramangala model in all assembly constituencies. Ramesh, on Wednesday, inspected the waste processing facility in Koramangala.

During the inspection, he reviewed the biomethanisation plant functioning at the unit and obtained detailed information on solid waste processing methods.

He also examined records related to the disposal of dry waste stored at the dry waste collection centre.

According to a statement by the corporation, the public expressed appreciation for the effective processing and management of wet and dry waste at the unit.

Man arrested for extorting two businessmen

BENGALURU, DHNS: Byadarahalli police have arrested a man with a likely past criminal history for allegedly extorting two businessmen, officials said on Wednesday.

The arrested is Magadi Manju. According to the police, Manju and his accomplices had waylaid Mukesh Bhai and his relative Jama Bhai, who are engaged in supplying gutka products, on December 15, a little after 11.30 pm near Magadi Main Road. "We have some information that the prime suspect, who is arrested, has a criminal history. It is being verified and a further probe is underway," a senior police officer told *DH*.

It is alleged that the suspects had damaged the car using a rock and also assaulted Jama Bhai. The two were then forcibly taken in a car to a petrol bunk.

Manju allegedly dialled the victims' landlord and demanded Rs 10 lakh for their release. As per the FIR, the victims were dropped later near BEL Layout, and the suspects fled after stealing Rs 2 lakh from the victims and leaving behind the gutka products in the damaged car.

Police have invoked BNS Sections 115 (Voluntarily causing hurt), 118 (Voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 308 (extortion), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 351 (criminal intimidation) and 126 (wrongful restraint) against the suspects.

Create designated places for pigeon feeding: Health dept to GBA

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Health and Family Welfare department issued an order to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to control the population of pigeons across the city. The GBA has been directed to create designated spots for pigeon feeding and permit feeding only for limited hours in the day.

Close contact with pigeons and pigeon droppings are reported to be injurious to respiratory health causing hypersensitivity pneumonia and other lung issues.

The order said that actions will be initiated against anyone violating the rules. Feeding pigeons will be considered public nuisance; negligent act likely to spread infection or cause danger to life and malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life amounts to violations likely to attract a fine and imprisonment up to two years.

The GBA will also have to ensure proper sanitation, prevent the spread of dangerous disease and undertake necessary measures to maintain the standard of public health. The upkeep and maintenance of the designated feeding place will be handed over to a non-government organisation, said the order.

The department has instructed the GBA to conduct public awareness including signboards and messages regarding the risks associated with pigeon droppings and feathers, the summary of regulatory directions and the penalties for violations and alternative humane methods of bird conservation.

Last month, BJP MLA and former minister S Suresh Kumar had written to GBA chief Maheshwar Rao requesting to stop pigeon feeding in public after pressure from citizens of his constituency.

I-T raids actor Shilpa Shetty's pub

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Income Tax (IT) officials launched raids at a pub co-owned by Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty on Wednesday.

Sleuths from the government agency arrived at Bastian Garden City on St Mark's Road near M G Road in Central Bengaluru and launched the search operations.

Multiple officers who arrived early in the morning had verified and scoured through the documents on the premises, sources said, adding that the raids were likely regarding suspicion of tax evasion.

The I-T Department is yet to issue an official statement.

The raids followed an FIR filed on December 14 by the Cubbon Park police under the Central Division against Bastian Garden City for operating beyond permissible hours. Police had invoked relevant sections from the Karnataka Police Act.

The FIR noted that police officers found the pub was operating even after 1.30 am on December 11.

The manager and staff of the pub were named in the FIR. A video that went viral previously had shown two men engaging in a scuffle at Bastian Garden City on December 11.

3 bidders for Tumakuru Metro DPR

BENGALURU, DHNS: A total of three consulting firms are in the race for the preparation of detailed project reports (DPR) for the 59.6-km Metro corridor which extends up to Tumakuru from Madavara. The Metro line is estimated to have 27 stations, costing a total of Rs 20.896 crore.

The bidders are: RITES Limited, Capital Fortunes Pvt Ltd and Aarvee Engineering Consultants Limited. For the Tumakuru Metro DPR, the BMRCL had opened the bids earlier this week and technical evaluation is currently underway. While critics have expressed their angst against the government for proposing an extension to a far-flung area and denying Metro connectivity within the city, Home Minister G ParameshwarA has defended the proposal, stating it will only be taken up under the public private partnership. The successful bidder will get five months time to prepare DPR.

1.04 cr cases settled in National Lok Adalat

BENGALURU, DHNS: A record 1,04,66,237 cases, including 3,01,396 pending and 1,01,64,841 pre-litigation cases, were disposed of in the National Lok Adalat held on December 13, 2025.

In a press briefing, Justice Anu Sivaraman, Executive Chairperson of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, said that Rs 3,103 crore was settled as compensation in the Lok Adalat.

The Lok Adalat also settled 2,469 matrimonial cases, including cases under CrPC section 125 (interim maintenance) and the Domestic Violence Act. Among the other cases, the Lok Adalat settled 3,673 partition suits and 4,660 MVC cases with a settlement amount of Rs 297 crore.

Street vendors' association warns GBA of protest over pending ID cards

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Pragathipara Beedi Vyaparigala Sangha, a labour union of street vendors, warned the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) of holding protests if the street vendors ID cards and verification cards were not issued at the earliest.

Speaking at a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday, S Babu, president of the Sangha, said, "The survey was done three months ago and yet the cards have not been distributed. When we approached the authorities, they said there had been mistakes. Why should the street vendors suffer for their mistakes?"

Without the ID cards and verification certificates police and GBA officials are harassing the street vendors, said the members of the association.

Vinay Sreenivasa, Advocate, insisted that the authorities form the Town Vending Committees. "The term of the Town Vending Committees that were formed under BBMP in 2020 has ended. After the five corporations were carved out, we are requesting them to form Town Vending Committees to discuss harassment of street vendors and related problems."

Members of Karnataka Pragathipara Beedi Vyaparigala Sangha at a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Vanajakshi, former Town Vending Committee member, requested GBA to let women vendors use public toilets for free and to install CCTV cameras in the streets as many cases of theft have been reported.

"The restroom is a basic facility and they charge us up to Rs 10. Hence, many of us are refraining from using restrooms. If the government could make that free for women it would be helpful. Earlier, thefts usually happened in shops. Now it's happening with us too. Money and our items are getting stolen," said Vanajakshi.

The vendors also requested the government to permit them to use tarpaulin sheets as shelter from rain and heat.

Syed Zameer, secretary, said, "If we put up tarpaulins, the police and GBA officials will force us to remove it. So we request the authorities to put it by themselves and to give us protection as our items are also getting spoiled due to weather."

CM faces health problems

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah faced health problems and was confined to his room at the Circuit House from the afternoon on Wednesday.

He also did not attend the legislature proceedings at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha.

BJP MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi met Siddaramaiah and enquired about his health.

Jarkiholi told reporters, "I wished him an early recovery. We did not discuss politics."

Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh also met the chief minister.

Siddaramaiah's MLC-son Dr Yathindra met him in the evening.

He said the CM had a diarrhoea-like infection and is taking rest after taking the medicine. He will attend the legislature session on Thursday, he said.

Of bankruptcy and fresh elections

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Congress and BJP lawmakers clashed in the Assembly on whether or not the Centre and state governments were 'bankrupt'.

The exchange happened when the BJP wondered if Gruha Lakshmi payments were irregular because the Congress government was bankrupt. "What else can the reason be?" BJP's V Sunil Kumar said.

To this, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said: "The Centre had announced Rs 5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra Project in the Union Budget, but it wasn't released. Similarly, funds under MGNREGS and Jal Jeevan mission are pending. Does that mean the Centre is bankrupt?"

Shivakumar also charged that the BJP was winning elections in other states after "copying" the Congress' guarantee schemes.

"Without these schemes, you'd not win," he said. Sunil dared the Congress to dissolve the Assembly and face fresh elections.

Unamused, Speaker U T Khader dared poll-loving lawmakers to resign.

"Those who want elections, raise your hands and give me your resignation. I'll accept it immediately. Face the election, win and come back to this House," he said.

Gruha Lakshmi: Minister apologises for providing 'wrong info' to Assembly

Oppn walks out over Hebbalkar's 'unconvincing' explanation

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Women & Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar on Wednesday apologised for providing wrong information to the Legislative Assembly on payments under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, but not before the Opposition raised a furore and finally walked out.

Last week, the BJP had accused Hebbalkar of "lying" to the House. On December 9, the minister insisted that payments were made to beneficiaries up to August.

The BJP, however, produced documents showing payments were not made in February and March.

"I had said that we've cleared payments up to August. That was the information I had. Later, when I checked, I found that there was a problem in February and March. It doesn't mean money was diverted," Hebbalkar said.

"I want to tell members that my intention wasn't to provide wrong information or mislead the House. I'll ask the finance department about this. I express regret if anybody was hurt," Hebbalkar said.

The BJP was not convinced with the minister's reply.

"Why won't she say that she made a mistake? She didn't apologise," Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said. Law Minister H K Patil urged the Opposition to drop the issue. "She has expressed regret. Let's end this here," he said.

Senior BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar said the minister should apologise unconditionally. "Instead, she's expressing regret if somebody is hurt."

Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar speaks in the Legislative Assembly at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Wednesday.

LAXMI HEBBALKAR
Women & Child Development Minister

"This scheme is intended to empower women. I express regret. But if you don't like that word (regret), I'll apologise.

R ASHOKA
Leader of Opposition

"Why won't she say that she made a mistake? She didn't apologise.

Hebbalkar, a first-time minister, said the government has paid Rs 52,416 crore to 1.26 crore Gruha Lakshmi beneficiaries till date. "This scheme is intended to empower women. I express regret. But if you don't like that word (regret), I'll apologise," she said.

In a parting salvo, Hebbalkar accused the Opposition of targeting her. "You're doing this because I'm a woman," she said, angering the BJP. Supporting her, Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil said: "Targeting a woman isn't right. What message are we sending to the state?"

Kumar said the Opposition would have raised the issue even if the minister in question was a man. "Let's not play the victim card. We have respect for our sister," he said.

The Opposition walked out in protest against Hebbalkar's 'unconvincing' clarification.

When the Assembly started earlier in the day, Speaker UT Khader was forced to adjourn the proceedings for over an hour after the Opposition protested Hebbalkar's absence.

Assembly passes drugs and cosmetics amendment bill

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The Assembly on Wednesday passed the Drugs and Cosmetics (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025, which makes all offences punishable under this legislation cognisable and non-bailable.

The Bill seeks to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (Central Act).

Piloting the Bill, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "This bill has been brought after a lot of deliberations. Its main aim is to ensure that rackets of poor and duplicate drugs are curbed. All drugs are finally tested in the central drug lab and we are setting up a lab in the state after discussing with the union government".

Rao said as per the existing law, whenever any drug or cosmetic is seized from any person (under 'reasonable belief' that it is misbranded or adulterated), the burden of proving that such a drug is not misbranded or adulterated lies with the government. As per the amendment, the burden of proof is now transferred to the person from whose possession such drug or cosmetic is seized.

It sought to impose maximum life imprisonment on the guilty. However, the minister clarified that this provision had been removed since it was considered to be very "stringent".

He explained that the Bill, after being passed in both Houses and Governor's assent, will be sent to the President of India for approval (since it is a central Act).

Other bills

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2025, Karnataka State Road Safety Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2025, The Bombay Public Trust (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025 and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Heritage Area Development Authority (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025 were also passed in the Assembly.

The Karnataka State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Bill, 2025, Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, 2025 and Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2025 were tabled in the House.

DH had reported on December 15 that the SC and ST Commission Bill and the SC (Sub-Classification) Bill were expected to be tabled in the ongoing session.

Heard in the House: Corruption keeping KK region backward

Officer sought bribe from me: BJP member in Council

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Terming corruption as one of the major reasons for the backwardness of Kalyana Karnataka region, BJP MLC Y M Satish on Wednesday revealed that an officer had sought bribe even from him for some work.

"Corruption has become a very serious social disease and it is rampant in all kinds of work," he told the Council.

When both ruling and opposition members asked him to name the officer who demanded bribe, Satish said he would inform that to the chairman.

During the continued special discussion on the problems of North Karnataka region, Satish stressed the need for all officials and politicians to take an anti-corruption pledge.

Hemalatha Nayak (BJP) said corruption was hindering development of the region. She lamented that farmers were in distress in the absence of maize procurement centres.

F H Jakkappanavar of the Congress urged the government to set up Kittur Karnataka Region Development Board, with Rs 5,000 crore funds, to develop a Constitution park in Dharwad, post efficient officers to the region and provide more new buses to the region.

BJP's Shashil Namoshi stressed the need to change rules to give 'justice' to meritorious candidates from Kalyana Karnataka region in recruitments and promotions.

M Nagaraju of the Congress stressed the need for more industries in North Karnataka region and better support from the union government.

AGAINST POWER 'MISUSE'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaks during a Congress protest against "misuse" of power by the Centre in the National Herald case, in front of Mahatma Gandhi statue on the premises of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Council rejects Congress bid to discuss National Herald case

BELAGAVI, DHNS

A request by Congress members to discuss the issue in the wake of a Delhi court declining to take cognisance of the ED's money laundering charges against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others in the National Herald case was rejected in the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

After Ivan D'Souza sought an opportunity to discuss the matter, the BJP members raised objections.

Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti said nothing should go on record.

House congratulates Umashree

The Council congratulated Congress MLC-veteran actor Umashree on being honoured with the Dr Rajkumar Lifetime Achievement Award. Members from both the ruling party and the Opposition lauded her talent as an actor.

'Minority welfare officer suspended'

Leader of the House N S Boseraju informed the Council that Krishnamurthy, Kodagu district officer of the Minority Welfare Department, has been suspended from service pending a departmental inquiry.

BJP MLC Suja Kushalappa had earlier alleged that the officer had made statements against him.

Boseraju is also the incharge minister of Kodagu district.

Din in Assembly over question on case

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The Legislative Assembly on Wednesday saw an altercation between the ruling Congress and Opposition NDA members after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's legal advisor A S Ponnanna sought a discussion on the "misuse" of independent agencies like Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation and so on.

During the Zero Hour, Ponnanna sought a discussion on the topic in the light of the Delhi Court refusing to take cognisance of Enforcement Directorate's money laundering complaint in the National Herald case against top Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. At this point, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka, MLAs Suresh Kumar, Sunil Kumar and others took objection, stating that such a question could not be permitted since no one responsible for the independent central agencies were there in the Karnataka Legislature.

With differences persisting, Speaker U T Khader adjourned the House. After the House reconvened, Khader noted that the discussion could not be permitted as per rules.

Aadhaar mandatory for property registration to avoid fake transactions: KBG

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda (KBG) on Wednesday informed the Legislative Council that Aadhaar was made mandatory for registration of properties to avoid fake transactions.

He explained to the House that using PAN cards, fake registrations were done. "Only with the intention to avoid fake registrations, we made Aadhaar mandatory. Earlier when there was an option between PAN, Aadhaar and Passport, 46% have submitted PAN for registration. Do we really have 46% of people having PAN cards in the state?," he wondered.

The minister mentioned that people used to submit photocopies of the PAN cards for registration and there was no option but to accept it. "Now, with Aadhaar made mandatory, there will be a guarantee of ownership. If all properties are integrated with Aadhaar, the face authentication will be the identity for all property documents."

Khata bifurcation

Replying to a query by BJP MLC D S Arun, Krishna Byre Gowda said that Cauvery portal has nothing to do with bifurcated khatas. "Earlier even bifurcated khatas used to be done through Cauvery portal. But, as bifurcation has to be done at the local level, I will request the RDPR and Urban Development departments to sort it out at their level," he assured.

Informing the House that thousands of layouts have been formed without bifurcating the khatas, Krishna Byre Gowda stated, "If the khata is revenue we will do it through Cauvery. But the bifurcation of the property has to be done by the local authorities concerned. I agree there are issues with Cauvery portal, but how can the Registration department bifurcate khatas?," he questioned.

'Govt to consider proposal on honorarium for Buddhist monks'

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy informed the Legislative Council on Tuesday that the state government is examining a proposal to provide a monthly honorarium to monks serving in Buddhist viharas across the state.

Replying to a question by MLC Shivakumar K, the minister, who replied on behalf of Minority Welfare Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, said the proposal is under consideration and that appropriate action will be taken soon.

He said that at present, the Minority Welfare Department provides a monthly honorarium to archakas serving in registered Jain basadis in the state.

Similarly, Pesh Imams and muezzins serving in Waqf-registered mosques are also paid a monthly honorarium.

"Government is reviewing the feasibility of extending similar benefits to Buddhist monks rendering services in Buddhist religious institutions, with the aim of ensuring parity and welfare support for religious functionaries across communities. He noted that the government currently pays between Rs 5,000 and Rs 6,000 per month as honorarium to archakas, Pesh Imams and muezzins," he added.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge makes a point in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

Drinking water units: No solution yet, admits Priyank

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday admitted in the Assembly that the government does not have a solution on the maintenance of drinking water units in rural areas.

"We're facing a difficulty," Priyank said during Question Hour when lawmakers raised the issue of dysfunctional water units.

"Units are set up without our knowledge under various funds - MP, MLA, MLC, corporate social responsibility and so on. After they are set up, gram panchayats are asked to pay for their management and maintenance," he said. "Units set up by gram panchayats are doing well. The problem is with units set up using other funds."

Priyank said he has been trying to come up with a blueprint for this. "I've personally spoken to the likes of Kent, Aquaguard, Coca Cola and Pepsi. They're ready to sell their products, but aren't ready to take up maintenance," he said. "I don't want to lie about this. I've not been successful in finding a solution. We'll continue talking to manufacturers. I'll need some more time," the minister said.

To a question by Hirekerur Congress MLA U B Banakar on fluoride levels across Haveri district, Priyank said his department had taken water testing seriously.

"In the previous government 5.13 lakh tests were done. Under our government, in the last two-and-a-half years, 13.20 lakh tests have been done. This is a continuous process," Priyank said, adding that the focus was on detecting chemical and biological contamination.

SESSION SNIPPETS

MLCs condemn reply given in English

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The Legislative Council members on Wednesday condemned a reply provided to a member's questions in English.

Congress member Ramesh Babu condemned the officials' reply in English. The other members also joined him. As a protest, Ramesh Babu began speaking in English, which surprised the chairman of the House.

When the chairman asked why he suddenly switched to English, Babu said, "The administrative and official language of the state is Kannada. But the officials dare to respond in English."

The other members also joined him and demanded action against the officials responsible for providing the reply in English.

Lighter moment over pendrive issue

BELAGAVI, DHNS: An issue raised by BJP MLC KS Naveen over a pendrive, provided to him by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, was not related to his question at all, and it created a lighter moment in the Legislative Council.

Naveen informed the chairman of the House that, while giving a reply to one of his questions, Minister Priyank Kharge said the answer was given in a pendrive. "As told by the minister, I was given a pendrive. But the Council secretariat staff later came and collected it, saying it was not related to my question," Naveen said.

Replying to him, Congress MLC Ivan D'souza asked, 'Hope nothing else was there in that pendrive." This led to laughter in the House.

'Announce incentive for brides marrying farmers'

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Congress MLC Puttanna raised an interesting issue during the Zero Hour.

Speaking about some social media posts and reports about farmers and agricultural labourers not getting brides, Puttanna demanded a special incentive of Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh in the name of the brides who marry farmers and agricultural labourers.

"It is a serious issue in society. The farmers and agricultural labourers are facing this problem all over the state. No girl is coming forward for an alliance with them. If the government announces a financial incentive of between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 25 lakh in the bride's name, then it will definitely help," he said.

He urged the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to consider this request seriously.

Order on compensation issued by previous govt flawed, says Krishna Byre Gowda

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The order pertaining to the disbursal of compensation under the Yagachi and Hemavathi Dam Rehabilitation and Resettlement Scheme issued by the previous government was riddled with flaws, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda informed the Council on Wednesday.

Replying to a question by JD(S) MLC S L Bhoje Gowda, he said, "The order stipulates that landowners who lost up to 5 acres are entitled to be allotted 4 acres. Consequently, officials have abused this to grant 4 acres even to those who lost only 10 guntas. The order should have specified the exact area of the land that was acquired; this is an example of how things can go wrong when the government is ignorant."

But when Bhoje Gowda alleged that funds were being misappropriated from the Bhadra Rehabilitation and Resettlement Scheme, the minister said that he had received no such complaint, while assuring the House of initiating action after going through the CAG report. "Since a senior member of the House has cited the CAG report, I will verify the findings, and take action accordingly," the minister said.

On grants made erroneously to 1,091 people under the Bhadra Rehabilitation and Resettlement Scheme, Krishna Byre Gowda said that the government was trying to appeal the matter in the court. "Based on the report by senior officer Mohammed Mohsi, we have issued orders to withdraw grants made to 1,091 people. But they moved the court, and got the order quashed. We are trying to appeal that order with a fresh report. The Regional Commissioner is conducting an enquiry, and a report is awaited," Krishna Byre Gowda said.

Pointing to instances of people being given land in the names of unborn children under the scheme, the minister said that the government had taken the issue very seriously.

Revenue deficit may widen, mid-year review warns

Cites GST rationalisation, non-realisation of tax on mines

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Hit by GST rationalisation, low tax collections and expenditure on 'guarantee' schemes, Karnataka may see its revenue deficit widen in the current fiscal, the mid-year review of state finances has warned.

Revenue deficit is the gap between the government's income and expenditure on day-to-day operations. The government has estimated a revenue deficit of Rs 19,262 this fiscal.

"The recent GST rate rationalisation and non-realisation of tax on mines is expected to lower revenue collections compared to the estimated targets, potentially increasing the revenue deficit in the current financial year," the review, tabled in the Assembly on Wednesday, stated.

The government has estimated "a significant reduction" in revenues, according to the report.

Up to Rs 9k cr shortfall

"For the current year, a shortfall of around Rs 5,000 crore is projected, and for the full year, the estimated shortfall is around Rs 9,000 crore. This is in addition to the revenue loss of about Rs. 9,500 crore due to the non-merger of cess," the report said.

STATE'S OWN TAX REVENUES

	2025-26 estimate	April to September	Growth over previous yea
Commercial taxes	Rs 1.2 lakh cr	Rs 53,205 cr	8%
Excise	Rs 40,000 cr	Rs 19,570 cr	10.6%
Stamps & registration	Rs 28,000 cr	Rs 11,805 cr	-1%
Motor vehicles	Rs 15,000 cr	Rs 5,812 cr	4.9%
Others	Rs 5,100 cr	Rs 589 cr	13.7%
TOTAL	Rs 2.08 lakh cr	Rs 90,881 cr	7.1%

Further, the government is likely to miss Rs 3,000 crore from mining taxes. The Karnataka Mineral Rights and Mineral Bearing Lands Tax Bill, with which the government wanted to levy the tax, is awaiting Presidential assent.

The government has estimated revenue receipts of Rs 2.92 lakh crore in 2025-26. Between April and September, receipts stood at R 1.28 lakh crore.

"The increase in committed expenditure, including the state's spending on guarantees and various welfare schemes, has increased revenue expenditure," the report said.

"Simultaneously, shortfall in revenue receipts on account of GST rate rationalisation has further constrained the state's fiscal position".

The government said, "Expenditure rationalisation initiatives are being pursued to contain non-essential spending and protect allocations for priority development sectors," to keep revenue deficit narrower.

All revenue-generating departments have seen growth over the previous year, except Stamps & Registration.

"The decline is primarily due to a slowdown in real estate activity," the report said, adding that collections may improve in the second-half with "anticipated recovery" in property deals.

'Good monsoon'

The government hopes that "adequate rainfall" will "further boost agricultural output while strong service and industrial performance" can sustain the state's economic momentum.

"Inflation in the state remained under control during the first half of the fiscal year, aided by a good monsoon that helped keep food prices low," the report said.

VIT hosts meet on environment

An international conference on protection of environment under international law was held at Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Chennai, on Tuesday, with speakers calling for concrete action to protect the environment for future generations.

Judge Leonardo Nemer Caldeira Brant, International Court of Justice, The Hague, Netherlands, was the chief guest. "Every country is expected to take due diligence to prevent harm to the climate", he said. Dr G V Selvam, Vice President, VIT, presiding over the event, said, "Safeguarding the environment and upholding the law are crucial to protecting the planet tomorrow and in the future".

(Left to right) Dr G V Selvam, Judge Leonardo Nemer Caldeira Brant and Justice R Suresh Kumar at the international conference held at VIT, Chennai

Justice R Suresh Kumar, Madras High Court, delivering a special address, said, "Students and young lawyers should have a world-view and contribute to protecting the environment".

Prof T Thyagarajan, Pro Vice Chancellor, VIT Chennai, delivered the keynote address, while VIT School of Law's professors Dr C Rabbiraj and Dr P R L Raja Venkatesan welcomed and thanked the gathering.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Court begins trial in Renukaswamy murder case

BENGALURU, DHNS: The trial in the Renukaswamy murder case, in which popular Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa is an accused, began here on Wednesday.

Renukaswamy's parents, who are witnesses number 7 and 8, appeared before the trial court after they were summoned on Dec 4. They had travelled from Chitradurga to Bengaluru.

On Nov 3, a Bengaluru court had framed charges against Darshan, Pavithra and 15 other accused, after they pleaded not guilty.

The key charges invoked in charge sheet are murder (IPC 302), criminal conspiracy (IPC 120B), kidnapping or abducting to murder (IPC 364) and disappearance of evidence (IPC 201).

Renukaswamy, 33, of Chitradurga, was found murdered near a storm-water drain in Sumanahalli, west Bengaluru, on June 9, 2024. His body was badly mutilated.

Police arrested Darshan, his friend Pavithra Gowda and 7 others 2 days later. More arrests followed. According to police, the motive behind the murder was Renukaswamy's 'obscene' social media messages to Pavithra.

On August 14, 2025, the Supreme Court cancelled the bail granted by the High Court to Darshan, Pavithra and the others and allowed the prosecution's special leave petition.

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CHRISTMAS IS HERE

Shoppers buy Santa Claus caps on sale ahead of Christmas on Church Road in Davangere on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/SATISH BADIGER

Bomb threat mail: Bagalkot dist office complex searched

BAGALKOT, DHNS: Bomb disposal and dog squads conducted a thorough search of the district offices complex here on Wednesday, following a bomb threat mail.

The mail was received on Dec 12 and was not taken seriously. Since deputy commissioners' offices in various districts received such mails, a search was conducted. Most district-level offices are in the complex. It was claimed that 5 bombs had been planted in the building.

I am cleaning up dirt piled up over many years, says KBG

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Wednesday told the Council that he is stuck 'clearing dirt' piled up in the department over the past many years.

Responding to a question from Ramoji Gowda (Cong) on pending cases in anti-corruption courts, the minister said he had inherited 62,878 cases from 8 to 10 years. "That number has now come down to 1,434. As much as90% of the cases are disposed of," he said.

Gowda said the government had set up 21 additional anti-corruption courts to dispose of cases speedily. "I have replied to the question, just for the sake of giving one. But if you really ask me, cases were pending owing to ignorance of higher officials," he said.

Pulse polio campaign from December 21

BELAGAVI, DHNS: 'Pulse Polio' campaign to immunise children in the age group of up to five years against polio will be held across the state on December 21.

With a target to cover 62.40 lakh children, 33,258 vaccination booths would be set up on December 21, while vaccinators would visit houses till December 24, said Health & Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, he stated that 1.13 lakh vaccinators would participate in the drive to be held on the occasion of the National Immunisation Day. In districts, micro-planning has been made under the leadership of deputy commissioners. People can also locate their nearby booths through the 'Nearby vaccination centre Karnataka' app, he noted.

No polio case has been reported since India was declared polio-free 14 years back. But, we have to be alert as polio cases were reported in neighbouring Pakistan and Afghanistan, the minister added.

Apply Calcutta HC guidelines in child custody cases, HC directs trial courts

Shall be used till rules are made by committee & approved

BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court has directed the courts in the state to adopt the guidelines enforced by the Calcutta High court in matters pertaining to child access and custody.

"We clarify that the said guidelines shall be applied till the rules are made by the rulemaking committee and are approved in accordance with law," a division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha said.

The bench was hearing the suo motu PIL registered in 2023 relating to framing of appropriate guidelines in child custody cases.

Subsequently, a child rights NGO - Ayushman initiative for child rights (AIFCR) - was permitted to implead as a respondent in the proceedings.

The NGO, also a party to proceedings in the PIL before the Calcutta High court, submitted that the child access and custody guidelines along with parenting plan 2025 was formulated and placed before the Calcutta HC.

It was further submitted that Karnataka may adopt the same guidelines till such time that the union government may come up with any modifications.

The division bench directed the registrar general to circulate these guidelines to all district judges, family courts and magistrates in the state exercising jurisdiction in matters relating to protection of women from domestic violence Act, 2005.

A direction was also issued to the effect that these guidelines be placed before the rule committee for considering the necessary changes.

Competitive exam aspirant jumps before moving train

DHARWAD, DHNS

In a tragic incident, a woman who had come to Dharwad from Ballari with the dream of joining the police service died by suicide by jumping before a moving train.

Pallavi Kaggal (25), a native of D Kaggal in Ballari district, was preparing for PSI and other competitive exams in Dharwad for the past 4 years.

Pallavi had participated in a protest held in Dharwad recently, demanding government job recruitment, and an increase in the age limit for the competitive exams. However, the exact reason behind taking the extreme step is yet to be known, said the police.

Pallavi, a BCom graduate, was at a Shivagiri library until Tuesday night. Next morning, her body was found at the railway tracks.

Pallavi

Railway police visited the spot and shifted the body to KIMS Hospital in Hubballi for post-mortem.

In two death notes found in her house, she had allegedly written that she was taking the drastic step due to health and personal issues. Pallavi stayed at a house in Shivagiri and used to study at Nalanda Library, according to Police Commissioner N Shashikumar.

Meanwhile, on learning about Pallavi's death, hundreds of students from Shivagiri, Srinagar, Kalyan Nagar and Pavate Nagar gathered near the railway track and were deeply shaken by the incident. At the same time, Job Aspirants' Struggle Committee State president Kantakumar said it was distressing that students were being driven to suicide.

He added that, as per the High Court's directions, they had met the chief minister on Tuesday, and assurances had been given that recruitment notifications would be issued in January 2026. Kumar said the government has begun responding to the students' movement and appealed to aspirants not to take extreme step.

Bengaluru-based businessman bags top Polish honour 'Bene Morito'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru-based businessman and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Bengaluru, Raghu Channarayapatna Rajappa, has been awarded the 'Bene Merito' honour by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland. Rajappa is the second Indian to be honoured with this distinction.

H E Piotr A Switalski, Head of Mission (Chargé d'Affaires), Embassy of the Republic of Poland to India, presents the award to Raghu Channarayapatna Rajappa.

The award was presented on behalf of the Polish Foreign Minister by Head of Mission Piotr A Switalski and Rafał Rosinski, Deputy Minister of Digital Affairs, during a formal ceremony held in Bengaluru, acknowledging Rajappa's contributions to strengthening bilateral ties.

The 'Bene Merito' is an honorary distinction bestowed by the Republic of Poland on individuals who significantly contribute to promoting Poland's interests abroad.

Rajappa assumed the role of Honorary Consul in 2020 for a period of five years, and his tenure has been extended by another five years, until 2030.

Over the course of his tenure, Rajappa has been proactively involved in strengthening the ties between Poland and Karnataka in various sectors, including business, technology, education, and culture.

He has facilitated Polish investment in Karnataka's tech ecosystem and promoted educational exchanges and MoUs between Polish and Karnataka universities.

Rajappa also played a pivotal role in evacuating 300 students from Karnataka who were stuck in Ukraine when the war between Ukraine and Russia broke out in 2022.

"While Bengaluru is the Silicon Capital of India, Poland is the Silicon Capital of Europe. Be it IT, BT, or AI, Poland is leading at the forefront. So, there are a lot of opportunities for collaborations between the two, which is what I've been promoting and will continue to promote. Both Karnataka and Poland have a good relationship now, so it's a great time for Polish companies to invest in Bengaluru and vice versa," he told *DH*.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client proposes to purchase land bearing Resurvey No.3/2 (part of old Survey No.3) of Boodhigere Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, measuring 3 Acres 30 Guntas and 07 Guntas of Kharab, more fully described in the Schedule below ("Schedule Property") from Sri B.S.Nanjunda Bhat, son of late Soorappa and his family members. The said Old Survey No.3 of Boodhigere Village totally measuring 4 Acres 21 Guntas including 07 Guntas of Kharab was an Inam Land attached to Sri Desha Narayanaswamy Temple and the said Sri B.S.Nanjunda Bhat was registered as the Occupant/Hiduvalidar under the Karnataka (Religious and Charitable) Inams Abolition Act, 1955 by the Land Tribunal, Devanahalli Taluk, vide its Common Order dated 29th October 1981 bearing Nos.LRF (INA) Nos.65/79-80, 792/79-80, 27, 10, 11, 12/79-80, 822/79-80, 823/79-80, 784/79-80, 162/80-81 and 163/80-81. The said land bearing old Survey No.3 is subsequently sub-divided into Resurvey Nos.3/1 (24 Guntas) and 3/2 (3 Acres 30 Guntas and 07 Guntas of Kharab), i.e., the Schedule Property.

Any person(s) having any right in, title to or claim against the Schedule Property and objections may, within fifteen days hereof, lodge with us his/her/its claim or objections with documentary proof. If no such claim and/or objections are received by us within the said period, our client shall presume that there are no claims/objections from any person(s) whatsoever and shall proceed with the transaction of purchase.

SCHEDULE

Property being land bearing Resurvey No.3/2 (part of Old Survey No.3) measuring 3 Acres 30 Guntas and 07 Guntas of Kharab situate at Boodhigere Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the

East by : Survey No.4
West by : Survey No.241
North by : Boodhigere Lake
South by : Bagalur – Devanahalli Road and beyond that, Resurvey No.3/1

Bengaluru
Date: 17-12-2025

M/s. T S SURESH + ASSOCIATES,
Advocates.
Fortune Chambers, 2nd Floor, 8, Lalbagh Road, Richmond Circle, Bengaluru 560 027.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHAIKH SUBANI** S/o MEHBOOB SHAIKH, R/at No. 28, 3rd Floor, D Block, Dhobighat Quarters, L R Nagar, Viveknagar, Bengaluru-560047, have changed my name to **SHUBHAM BHOSALE** and declare that i have embraced Hinduism and renounced Islam w.e.f 03-08-2025, vide affidavit dated 03.12.2025 before XXXVIII Addl. Chief Judical Magistrate, Bengaluru.

I,ASHOK BABU, Residing at No.4043, Casa Serenita Sobha City, Thanisandra Main Road, R.K.Hegde Nagar,Bengaluru-560077. Have Changed my Name ASHOK BABU to ASHOK BABU THANGARAJ vide affidavitDated:16.12.2025 before Notary K.V.Mani,Bangalore

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LOST
Registered sale Deed (Document No RMN-1-07758: 2019-20) pertaining to Survey number 51/3, Billakempanahalli, Bidadi-2 Hobli, Ramnagar Taluk, Ramnagar District has been lost. If any body who finds the document contact the number below
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Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENT
I, **A.S. KRISHNA,** R/at No. 120/2, 4th Cross, Venkateshwara Layout, J.P. Nagar 8th Phase, B.G. Road, Bengaluru-76, declare that by oversight in my Aadhar & PAN Card my D.O.B. is mentioned as 01-01-1961 and 01-05-1964 my actual & correct D.O.B is 19-05-1960 (as recorded in PF), vide affidavit dated 18.11.2025 before notary S. Vijaya Kumar, Bengaluru.

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Renuka Bharadi** W/o Hanumanth Kuragund, residing at No.65/31, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, Bhovi Colony, Suddaguntepalya, Taverekere Post, Bengaluru-560029, have changed my name to **PALLAVI KURAGUND** vide affidavit dated 17.12.2025 before notary K Venkateshan, Bengaluru.

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Babu Mathew to head AITUC Karnataka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Labour law expert Babu Mathew has been unanimously elected as the Karnataka president of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC).

Babu Mathew

Mathew is a visiting professor at the National Law School of India University with experience in practical trade unionism, too. AITUC is associated with the Communist Party of India (CPI).

"A strong advocate of the rights of the working class, Prof Babu Mathew actively participated in workers' struggles as an AITUC leader in the 1970s and 80s," the AITUC said in a statement. Mathew replaces veteran trade unionist Ananth Subba Rao.

Two women killed in sugarcane harvester mishap

ATHANI (BELAGAVI DISTRICT), DHNS: Two women labourers were killed on the spot after the dumper portion of a sugarcane harvesting machine allegedly knocked them down due to the negligence of the vehicle driver at Satti village in the taluk on Wednesday.

The deceased have been identified as Bouravva Laxman Kobadi (60) and Laxmibai Mallappa Rudragoudar (65), residents of Satti.

The incident occurred when the women were engaged in their routine work and failed to notice the harvester's dumper when it moved in reverse. They sustained severe head injuries after being hit by the machine and died on the spot.

The women labourers had been working to support their families.

Athani police have registered a case and are investigating.

CAG: Govt 'delayed' action plan for flood, landslide risk management

Report tabled in Assembly says response 'inadequate'

A file photo of a landslide in Kodagu. The CAG report noted that the number of landslides significantly increased since 2016, adding that Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu districts were the most vulnerable and severely affected by landslides since 2018.

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India's (CAG) report on Disaster Management in Karnataka has found that the state action plan for flood risk management was brought out only during 2021 (after much delay), and its response under landslide management had been "inadequate."

The report, tabled on Tuesday in the Legislative Assembly, noted that all state governments were to prepare the flood management plans (FMPs) as per the guidelines of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) given in January 2008.

"The state government, however, inordinately delayed the preparation of FMP and brought out the Karnataka State Action Plan for Flood Risk Management only during 2021," the CAG report said.

The report took further exception, stating that though the State Flood Action Plan had mentioned that the state government had appointed many committees/working groups/task forces, and the details of the institutional support for flood management were either "not mentioned" in the Action Plan or "not furnished" to the audit.

Landslide impact

The report noted that the number of landslides significantly increased since 2016, adding that Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu districts were the most vulnerable and severely affected by landslides since 2018.

"Neither the data on expenditure incurred by the government towards management of land slip hazards over the years nor the details of environmental damage and socio-economic impact thereon, on the farming community in particular, were available with the government."

The report again flagged the delay in the formulation of the state action plan, noting that though the specific National Landslide Risk Management Strategy (LRMS) was introduced by NDMA in September 2019, the state published the 'Karnataka State Action Plan: Management of Landslides' only in 2022.

The report recommended that the state government develop a Comprehensive Landslide Prevention and Mitigation Plan to prevent geological disasters.

House reconstruction

The report also noted that though 1,10,407 cases had been approved for house damage for reconstruction during 2019-23, construction did not start in 22,496 cases (20%) for which a total of Rs 213.94 crore had already been paid, "raising questions" on the assessment.

The report recommended that the state government ensure "strict adherence" to financial record-keeping and reconciliation procedures to enhance accountability and transparency in financial transactions.

The report also recommended that the state government should ensure the effective functioning of institutions like SDMA, SEC, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and others.

The Disaster Response Force units had huge vacancies (mainly in the cadres of police and fire service personnel), ranging from 67% to 96% of the sanctioned strength, whereby the units faced difficulties in managing shift-wise duties and rescue operations, the report said.

Law and order in state has completely collapsed, alleges Ashoka

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka alleged on Wednesday that the law and order situation had "completely collapsed" in Karnataka, stating that police themselves had "turned thieves."

Initiating a debate on the law and order situation in the Legislative Assembly, Ashoka said: "In Parappana Agrahara Jail, murderers and terrorists are being provided resort-like and five-star facilities... Lobbying also takes place for this. Rowdy-sheeter Gubbachchi Seena celebrated his birthday inside the jail. It's unclear how such a cake entered the jail... The jail rules state that the police commissioner should visit the jail every month and conduct inspections. However, such visits have not taken place."

Police themselves have become "thieves," in the state the LoP said, adding that 130 police personnel had been suspended in 11 months in Bengaluru for colluding with criminals.

He said that a police constable was the prime conspirator in Rs 7-crore robbery in Bengaluru. Earlier, criminals feared the police. Now, there is no fear. There are 23,000 active rowdies in the state. 43,000 bikes have been stolen, he said.

In the two years of Congress rule, law and order has "deteriorated," he alleged, adding that the government should release a White Paper on it.

BJP's Karkala MLA Sunil Kumar also slammed the Congress. "CM says theirs is a government that listens. It's not, and it's instead an exploiting government. People anyway don't have faith in the government. Don't take away their faith in the police.."

Wondering whether the home minister had control over his department, he said: "See how the department can be handled. Or else, resign from the position."

Council passes 11 Bills

BELAGAVI, DHNS: The Council passed 11 Bills passed in Assembly.

They are: Chandraguthi Renukamba Kshetra Devpt Authority Bill, Rent (Amendment) Bill, Chamundeshwari Kshetra Devpt Authority (Amendment) Bill, Hindu Religious Institutions & Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, Cine & Cultural Activists (Welfare) (Amendment) Bill, Malnad Area Devpt Board (Amendment) Bill, Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, Bayaluseeme Devpt Board (Amendment) Bill, Malai Mahadeswaraswamy Kshetra Devept Authority (Amendment) Bill, Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, & State Universities (Amendment) Bill.

LS clears Bill on pvt role in N-power

N-power, from Page 1

"If a nuclear accident takes place, since we are dependent on foreign suppliers...shouldn't the supplier be liable?" the Chandigarh MP asked.

Responding to the debate, the minister said the government dropped the clause on supplier's liability because "foreign collaborators had reservations" and technology has changed between 2010-2025. "We now plan a big way on small modular reactors."

"Yes, BJP supported the clause (17B) in the 2010 liability law. But times are changing. In the last 10 years we lost on collaboration. Under this Bill, the government will deal only with the operators," he said, noting that the supplier liability was removed after detailed consideration of global practices and advances in reactor safety.

The minister said the operator's liability was capped at Rs 3,000 crore and in case the damage is more, the government will pay the additional amount. "We will put in place a nuclear liability fund," he said. "Also we can seek additional international compensation through India's participation in the Convention of Supplementary Compensation."

Singh said the government would have full control on spent fuel, heavy water and fissile material, even in private nuclear reactors.

Opposing the Bill, Trinamool Congress' Saugata Roy demanded that the liability cap be increased.

Congress' Shashi Tharoor said it was "not nuclear Bill but unclear Bill" and such a "dangerous" Bill should go to a Standing Committee or a JPC. DMK's Arun Nehru said the liability cap of Rs 3,000 crore was very "miniscule".

Apartment association in the dock for fine...

Apartment, from Page 1

The FIR noted that Chandrahasa, the security officer, without any permission, entered the apartments, searched them, seized narcotic substances, collected fines and later destroyed the seized drugs.

As per the FIR, the association has been collecting fines from residents for even minor issues since June 2023. The security agency which collected the fine in some cases wired the amount to the association bank account.

"The association has been collecting fines of Rs 500 or Rs 1,000 for trivial issues like wrong parking, plucking flowers, etc." Anitha B Haddannavar, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South West, told *DH*.

"However, in the last few months, they have issued fines to residents, especially students, ranging from Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000 for offences like illegal substance use. We have information that fines were collected in cash in some cases and through UPI in other cases. When such offences occur, they should've informed the police, which they haven't done," the DCP added.

In one of the incidents, the security in-charge, following instructions from the association, illegally collected some fines from the mother of a suspect booked in a drugs case and forced them to vacate, as per the FIR. Police also found that the association had set up SOPs and guidelines outlining the fines of specific offences and handing them to the security agency for enforcement. Kumbalgodu police have invoked BNS Sections 211 (Omission to give notice or information to public servant by person legally bound to give it), 238 (Causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender) and 239 (Intentional omission to give information of offence by person bound to inform) against the suspects.

Relevant sections under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act were also invoked, the police said. Multiple calls from *DH* to Viswanath JS, the president of Provident Sunworth Apartment Owners' Association, which is being investigated, went unanswered.

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನೀಸ&ಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಾಣೀಸ ಆವರಣ, ಯಾದವಗಿರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570020

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ/ನೀಸ&ಒಚ(ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)/ಸ.ಅ/ಟಿಎನ್-19/813/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.12.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ/ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ KTPP ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ಒಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	kw-1 & Kw-3	03 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	92.84	18.12.2025	26.12.2025	29.12.2025
2	kw-1, kw-2 & Service Tender	11 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	131.29	18.12.2025	02.01.2026	03.01.2026

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ/ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ನೀಸ&ಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಮೈಸೂರು/1377/ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ/2025-26

BJP says revenue minister 'usurped' 21 acres, KBG refutes

KBG, from Page 1

"Survey number 47 was kharab land earmarked as a cemetery, which can't be transferred," he said, demanding an investigation. "Each acre costs Rs 5-6 crore today," he added.

Gowda described as "mudslinging" and "politically motivated" the BJP's allegation.

He said the Garudanapalya land was "ancestral property" passed down from his grandfather. "My grandfather bought the land. Then, it came to my father (former minister C Byre Gowda) and his siblings. It was partitioned within the family," he said.

Gowda said records could be checked to verify whether or not his grandfather had bought the land.

"They [BJP] can approach the Lokayukta seeking an investigation. If there's no faith in the Lokayukta, they can go to court," Gowda said. "As revenue minister, I don't want to ask my officials to check records pertaining to land connected to me. That's why an independent institution should check this," he said.

Asked about the 1978 documents, Gowda said there were "handwritten" RTCs before 2000. "Let it be investigated."

In a statement, Gowda said the land belonged to the erstwhile Mysore royal family. The entire Garudanapalya village was leased to the minister's grandfather, Patel Chowdegowda, for 10 years in 1953.

In January 1959, however, the royalty sold all lands to one Habeebulla Khan.

After the Inam Abolition Act came into effect in February 1959, all lands of Garudanapalya became vested in the state.

Chowdegowda's claim was rejected in 1962 when a special deputy commissioner ruled that Khan was the occupant.

Chowdegowda appealed against this decision in the Mysuru Revenue Appellate Tribunal. After lengthy hearings, Chowdegowda and Khan filed a conciliation application. Based on the decree, lands were transferred to Chowdegowda.

In 2001, the lands were divided amongst Chowdegowda's heirs, the minister said. "Therefore, this is ancestral property and all processes were done legally."

With the latest allegation, the ruling Congress is facing land-related 'scam' for the third time since it came to power.

Earlier, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife had to return 14 plots to the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) following allegations of irregularities.

The Siddhartha Vihar Trust, linked to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's family, returned a 5-acre Civic Amenities (CA) site to the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board after allegations of nepotism.

Government of Karnataka

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.

No. EE/PWD/HSN/JE-2/2025-26/ DATED: 16.12.2025.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 29/2025-26, Dated: 16.12.2025

Tenders are invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-3 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD through E-procurement for 01 Work in Hassan division. The amount put to tender is Rs.80.13 lakhs. Last date of Receipt of tender for works is 26.12.2025 till 4.00 P.M. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD,
Hassan Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/848/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

KIDWAI MEMORIAL INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA AUTONMOUS INSTITUTION
Dr. M.H.Marigowda Road, Bengaluru-560029.
Ph: 080-66697999 (Director), Mail ID: directorkidwai01@gmail.com

No. KMIO/ADM/EST-1/68/2025 Date: 17.12.2025

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following Group-A Post in the prescribed format to Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore.

Name of the Post	**Senior Surgeon / Professor (Resident Medical Officer)**
Pay Scale	**Rs.107500-167200** (State Pay scale)
No. of Post	**One Post**
Classification	**General Merit**
Minimum Qualification	For eligibility criteria and other details please visit the Institute website: **https://kmio.karnataka.gov.in**
Age Limit	**45 years** (on the last date prescribed for receipt of application). Relaxable in special circumstances for reasons to be recorded in writing.
Last Date for receipt of application	**Date: 17.01.2026 at 4.00 PM.** Applications received after the Due date will not be entertained.

Guidelines for submitting the applications can be downloaded from Kidwai website: **https://kmio.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Administrative Officer

DIPR/CP/4496/SSC/2025-26

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Malleshwaram Zone, Office of the Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC Building, Chennmmanakere Achukattu, Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560085.

No: EE(BG)/KPPP/TEND/05/2025-26 Date: 17-12-2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites Tender from eligible Tenderers registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with PWD / CPWD or any State Government Organization for the Works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Annual Maintenance of Roads and Footpaths in Ward Jurisdiction Area in Ward No. 196. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.37, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-**
2	Annual Maintenance of Roads and Footpaths in Ward Jurisdiction Area in Ward No. 197. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.37, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-**
3	Annual Maintenance of Roads and Footpaths in Ward Jurisdiction Area in Ward No. 198. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 25.37, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-**
4	Repairs and Maintenance of Dhobhi Ghats in Basavanagudi Constituency. **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 41.50, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 50,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 19-12-2025, 15.00 Hours onwards. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **23-12-2025 at 16.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading the Tender Documents: **30-12-2025 upto 15.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **31-12-2025 at 16.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Opening date will be intimated through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Basavanagudi Division, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521

No.: CEE/Tr(O)Z/SEE(O)/AE-2/25-26/10204-06 & 10207-09 Date: 15.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invities Tender for the following works

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/Tr(o)Z/SEE(O)/AE-2/2025-26/T&P-0067, dt:13.10.2025 (Call-2). For Supply of T&P Materials (Testing kit and Measurement Kit) required for RT Circle, KPTCL, Chitradurga, coming under Transmission (Operation) zone, KPTCL, Tumakuru.

2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/Tr(o)Z/SEE(O)/AE-2/2025-26/0047 dt:17.09.2025(Call-2). For Augmentation of 2 x10 MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer-1&2 by 2x20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformers at 110/11KV **Doddaguni** sub-station in Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru District under Operation Division, KPTCL, Tumakuru including supply of equipments/materials, Dismantling and erection (including civil works), under Partial turnkey basis, on Percentage Tender Basis, (Power Transformer & NFIS will be supplied by KPTCL, Testing and commissioning will be carried out by KPTCL)

The detailed information regarding subject enquiry in KPP portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink E procurement-KPTCL or **https:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after (Sl. No.1) **18.12.2025 and** (Sl. No.2) **20.12.2025** and other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Electy)
Transmission(Operation) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, 1st Floor
66/11 kv Tumakuru sub-station premises, Tumakuru-03

TRACKING THE TRAJECTORY

Seagull on Karwar seashore had traversed 12,000 km in nine months

Siberian migratory bird was geo-tagged by researchers in SL

KARWAR, DHNS

The presence of a transmitter-attached seagull has aroused curiosity and some fear among visitors to the Rabindranath Tagore beach here.

But the coastal marine division of the forest department has clarified that the bird had been released for research purposes by the Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Centre (SLWCC).

The Heuglin's Seagull which was found with a satellite-tagged transmitter on Rabindranath Tagore beach in Karwar.

The Heuglin's Gull has been affixed with a GPS transmitter and has satellite tagging.

Indigenous to the snow-capped Arctic mountains, the seagull migrates to Sri Lanka during winter.

"One of these birds was captured, geo-tagged for research purposes and released in March. It had flown to Siberia and to the Arctic. After the breeding season there, it started back towards Sri Lanka. It has reached Karwar on the way," Sampath Seneviratne, a research scientist at Colombo University told *DH*.

"Its journey has spanned more than 12,000 km over this period. Looking at satellite data, we found that these birds are on the aerial path even at night," he said.

"The Seagull found here throws light on the research undertaken by SLWCC. India should also replicate such experiments using homegrown devices," Amit Hegde, a senior wildlife researcher told *DH*.

Quiet Hyderabad colony shaken as Australia gunman's roots emerge

Sajid Akram's family understood to be in protective police custody

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

An unusual calm hangs over Al Hasnath Colony in Hyderabad's Tolichowki after news broke that Australia's Bondi Beach gunman, Sajid Akram, had roots in the city and that his family resides in the same locality.

Most neighbours told *DH* they were unaware of Sajid's existence. By the time the Akram family moved into the quiet residential colony in 2002, Sajid had already migrated to Australia, and his visits to India were rare over the past 27 years.

Residents described the family as quiet and soft-spoken, noting that they largely kept to themselves. Many locals were reluctant to discuss the incident or comment on the family.

Al Hasnath Colony is a small neighbourhood with several Muslim households and a mosque nearby.

Currently, Sajid's elder brother — a doctor at a city college — lives in the family's two-storey residence with his wife, also a doctor, their children, and their mother. "Not many of us knew the doctor had a younger brother in Australia. We are shocked to hear what happened. They have always been polite and soft-spoken," said a 50-year-old neighbour.

Intelligence sources said Sajid visited Hyderabad only six times in nearly three decades, his last trip being in 2022. He reportedly had disagreements with family members over property matters and did not return even when his father passed away in 2009. The family home has since been found locked, with members understood to be under protective police custody.

BONDI BEACH TERROR ATTACK

- Bondi Beach attacker's roots traced to Al Hasnath Colony in Tolichowki
- Neighbours unaware of Sajid Akram's existence; family moved in 2002 after his migration to Australia
- Sajid visited Hyderabad only six times in nearly three decades
- Telangana police say family unaware of radicalisation; no local links to extremism

On Sunday, a mass shooting at Sydney's Bondi Beach during a public Hanukkah celebration claimed 15 lives, including one of the attackers. Australian authorities are treating the incident as a terrorist attack. The gunmen were identified as Sajid Akram and his son Naveed Akram, said to have been inspired by IS ideology.

According to Telangana police, Sajid Akram hailed from Hyderabad, where he completed a BCom degree before migrating to Australia in November 1998 in search of employment. He later married Venera Grosso, a woman of European origin, and settled there permanently. It is understood that Sajid's family had reservations about his marriage outside their faith. The couple have two children — Naveed, identified as one of the attackers, and a daughter.

Police officials in Telangana said Sajid's family was unaware of his radicalisation. "The factors leading to the radicalisation of Sajid and his son appear to have no connection with India or any local influences in Telangana," an official said.

Wife visits parents without burqa, man kills her & 2 daughters

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A man, allegedly enraged over his wife's failure to wear a burqa (veil) while visiting her parents, shot her dead along with their two daughters in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district.

The accused, Farooq, a resident of Garhi Doulat village, buried the bodies inside his house and told family members that he had shifted them to Shamli town in a rented accommodation.

The killings took place on December 10, but they came to light only on Tuesday after police, acting on a complaint filed by Farooq's father, took him into custody and interrogated him. Sources said the bodies were recovered from the house after the ground was dug up.

Farooq told police that he was angry with his wife because she had gone to her parental home without wearing a burqa. "Farooq never allowed his wife to go out without wearing a burqa," a senior police official said.

He shot his wife dead after she returned from her parents' house on December 10. He then killed his two daughters, aged 14 and 10, as they had witnessed the crime. When questioned by his father about his wife and daughters, Farooq claimed he had shifted them to a rented house. His father suspected foul play and alerted the police.

1 more held in Sabarimala gold heist case

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Another former employee of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) has been arrested in connection with the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple gold heist.

The special investigation team (SIT) probing the case arreste former TDB administrative officer S Sreekumar on Wednesday. He was produced before the court, which decided on his remand.

Sreekumar was serving as an administrative officer when the metal covering of the "Dwarapalaka" idols was removed and handed over to Bengaluru-based Malayali Unnikrishnan Potti for gold plating. He was earlier arraigned in the case.

With this, the total number of people arrested in the case reached seven. Former TDB presidents A Padmakumar and N Vasu, besides three officials and Potti, were earlier arrested by the SIT. Padmakumar is also a former CPM MLA.

Meanwhile, TDB former secretary S Jayasree, who was also arraigned in the case, is likely to be arrested soon. Former TDB president P S Prasanth is likely to be quizzed by the SIT soon.

The SIT is learnt to have also started a preliminary verification into the suspicions that an international antique smuggling racket was involved in the scam.

Ahmedabad panic: Over 20 schools receive bomb threats

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: More than 20 schools in Gujarat's Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar districts received bomb-threat emails on Wednesday, causing widespread panic among students and parents.

The threats led authorities to enforce security measures, while fear gripped schools that hadn't received any threats, which later turned out to be hoaxes.

Dhaka envoy summoned over security threats

India raises concerns after protest outside mission

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

After a radical organisation staged a protest outside the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh, New Delhi on Wednesday summoned Dhaka's envoy, lodged a protest and shut down the visa application facility in Bangladesh capital.

It also asked the interim government in Dhaka to ensure the safety of India's missions and posts in line with its diplomatic obligations.

Relations between New Delhi and Dhaka worsened on the 54th anniversary of India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war, which led to the creation of Bangladesh as an independent nation out of East Pakistan. On Wednesday, the Muhammad Yunus government in Dhaka alleged that New Delhi had consistently downplayed the role of Bangladesh's Muktijoddhas (liberation warriors) in the war, while highlighting the victory of India's armed forces over Pakistan.

Riaz Hamidullah, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs headquarters, where senior officials conveyed New Delhi's "strong concerns" over the deteriorating security environment in Bangladesh.

His attention was specifically drawn to the activities of extremist elements who had announced "plans to create a security situation" around the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, according to MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

TIES WORSEN

- Visa centre in Dhaka shut amid security concerns
- Liberation war legacy sparks fresh discord
- Dhaka accuses India of downplaying role of Muktijoddhas
- Radical group demands India hand over Hasina
- Bangladesh alleges terror plots from Indian soil

Visa centre shut

New Delhi also shut down the Indian Visa Application Centre at Jamuna Future Park in Dhaka in view of the "ongoing security situation".

"India has close and friendly relations with the people of Bangladesh, rooted in the liberation struggle and strengthened through developmental and people-to-people initiatives," New Delhi said in a démarche issued to Dhaka.

A radical group, July Oikya Mancha, staged a protest near the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, demanding that India hand over deposed former PM Sheikh Hasina and ex-interior minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal.

A Dhaka court had sentenced both to death on November 17 for "crimes against humanity" during the 2024 crackdown on student protests.

Prithviraj Chavan refuses to apologise for Op Sindoor remarks

MUMBAI, DHNS: Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan has refused to apologise for his remarks on Operation Sindoor, in which he claimed India was "defeated on Day 1" during the military engagement with Pakistan in May.

Talking to reporters in Pune, Chavan had said, "On the first day (of Operation Sindoor), we were completely defeated. In the half-hour aerial engagement that took place on May 7, we were fully defeated, whether people accept it or not. Indian aircraft were shot down. The Indian Air Force was completely grounded, and not a single aircraft flew...if any aircraft had taken off from Gwalior, Bathinda, or Sirsa, there was a high probability of being shot down by Pakistan, which is why the Air Force was fully grounded."

As the statement snowballed into a major controversy, with the BJP and its allies targeting him, Chavan remained defiant. "I haven't said anything wrong and there is no question to apologise. Our Constitution has given me the right to question...I would not like to say anything now...I will speak in detail."

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said such comments are very unfortunate.

On the other hand, Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member said, "The way Operation Sindoor began and later stopped is shrouded in suspense. Our forces were advancing, but after President Trump's ceasefire call, they stopped. This is a betrayal of the whole country."

WARM WELCOME

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by Ethiopian leaders during a joint session of the Parliament, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. PTI

After Karur tragedy, TVK opts for controlled public meeting

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
ERODE, DHNS

Learning lessons from the Karur stampede that killed 41 people, the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) is making elaborate arrangements for its first public meeting here on Thursday to be addressed by party chief Vijay.

The party was forced to change its template of holding road shows to public meetings after the September 27 road show in Karur ended in a disaster when 41 people, including 10 children, died in a stampede. TVK suspended all its road shows for about two months before holding a public engagement in a closed environment in Kanchipuram in November.

The public meeting will be held at an expansive 32-acre land owned by the Vijayapuri Amman Temple in Vijayapuram near here on the Cochin-Bengaluru highway between 11 am and 1 pm.

The meeting is being keenly awaited in political circles as this is the first public event in the state after the TVK inducted its first high-profile leader, K A Sengottaiyan, who was with the AIADMK for 52 years. Hailing from the western region where the AIADMK is strong and the BJP is growing gradually, Sengottaiyan is an asset for the TVK, which lacked experienced leaders.

About 60 enclosures have been created, with each possessing the capacity to hold about 400 to 500 people. "The attendees will stand... We expect about 25,000 to 30,000 people to attend the rally. We have installed about 60 CCTV cameras in the venue, and ambulances and medical teams will be deployed," a TVK leader told *DH*.

District police officials inspected the venue on Wednesday and asked the organisers to adhere to the conditions imposed on them, even as about 1,000 police personnel are likely to be deployed.

No stage has been erected as Vijay will speak from his specially designed campaign bus that will be parked in the middle of the venue.

Adequate arrangements have been made for people to access drinking water and washrooms. During the roadshow in Karur, many people fainted due to dehydration as they didn't have access to water for hours together.

Kanimozhi to head DMK's manifesto panel for 2026 polls

CHENNAI, DHNS: The DMK on Wednesday constituted a 12-member committee under the leadership of Kanimozhi Karunanidhi to prepare the manifesto for the 2026 assembly elections.

Besides politicians, the committee also includes a retired bureaucrat and the CEO of a SaaS (Software as a Service) company.

This is the second time Kanimozhi has chaired the manifesto committee, following the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, in which the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance won all 39 seats in Tamil Nadu.

'What if he touched...': UP minister's shocker on Nitish hijab act

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Amid the raging controversy over Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's alleged attempt to pull the hijab from the face of a Muslim woman during a function a few days ago, an Uttar Pradesh minister appeared to downplay it.

"There is so much hue and cry over the mere pulling of a hijab... What happened if the veil was removed? What would have happened if he had touched somewhere else?" said UP minister Sanjay Nishad, president of the Nishad Party, an alliance partner of the BJP.

As Nishad's comments triggered outrage among women's activists and political rivals, he clarified that it was not his intention to hurt the religious sentiments of any community.

"I simply wanted to make sure that the matter (hijab controversy) was laid to rest," he said.

A police complaint was filed against both Nitish and Nishad at the Kaiserbagh Police Station on Wednesday. The complaint was filed by Samajwadi Party leader Sumaiyya Rana.

"People with such a mentality can never respect women irrespective of their religion... There is a need to save women from such people," she said.

BJP leader Aparna Bisht also slammed Nishad for his remarks, saying that such comments could not be tolerated in civilised societies.

DH DECIPHERS

BMC polls: Maximum City, maximum stakes

Mumbai's description as Urbs Prima in Indus, or the first city of India, dates back to the 1800s, when it was the country's most populous and largest urban centre. Today, spread across 600 sq km and home to over 1.3 crore people, it remains the bustling financial and business capital of India. The BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Asia's richest civic body, commands a budget larger than that of several states. **Mrityunjay Bose** *examines the importance of the upcoming BMC polls, being held after four years.*

Since when have BMC elections been due??

The last five-year term of the BMC, elected in 2017, ended on March 7, 2022. Since then, there has been no general body or mayor. The BMC municipal commissioner has been functioning as a state government-appointed administrator. Elections have been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and legal hurdles, including Bombay High Court cases on ward restructuring and Supreme Court petitions challenging the breach of the 50% reservation limit in local body polls.

What is the BMC budget? How does it compare with the states?

Earlier this year, the BMC presented a massive budget of Rs 75,427 crore for 2025-26. Its total reserves stand at Rs 81,744.42 crore. This surpasses the annual budgets of Mizoram (Rs 15,043 crore), Sikkim (Rs 16,196 crore), Nagaland (Rs 24,699 crore), Manipur (Rs 29,988 crore), Meghalaya (Rs 30,003 crore), Tripura (Rs 32,423 crore) and Arunachal Pradesh (Rs 39,842 crore). It is also higher than the budgets of Goa (Rs 28,162 crore) and Himachal Pradesh (Rs 58,514 crore).

How large is the area under BMC's jurisdiction?

Mumbai spans 603.4 sq km across two districts — Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban. The BMC's jurisdiction covers 24 administrative wards, which include 227 municipal seats.

Why are BMC polls nationally important?

While the BMC elections mainly concern civic and infrastructure issues in Mumbai and its suburbs, they are politically significant. Mumbai is seen as a bellwether, and electoral performance in the Maximum City often signals broader urban trends ahead of state and national polls.

What has been Shiv Sena's record in the BMC?

The undivided Shiv Sena, under the leadership of the late Balasaheb Thackeray and his son Uddhav Thackeray, commanded Mumbai for a quarter of a century. Looking at past elections, the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena consistently emerged as the largest party in the BMC: 1997 (103 seats), 2002 (97 seats), 2007 (84 seats), 2012 (75 seats) and 2017 (84 seats). Before Shiv Sena's dominance, the Congress held influence in the civic body.

What kind of alliances are expected in Mumbai?

The BJP, which leads the Maha Yuti, is set to ally with the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, with the NCP and RPI (Athawale) also part of the coalition. On the other hand, uncertainty persists within the Maha Vikas Aghadi. The Thackeray cousins — Shiv Sena (UBT) led by Uddhav and the MNS headed by Raj — are likely to forge an alliance. The Congress has announced it will contest alone, though there are chances of a tie-up with the NCP(SP). A clearer picture is expected to emerge within a week.

Second MH-60R squadron boosts Navy's frontline capability

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

An MH60R anti-submarine warfare helicopter.

The Indian Navy on Wednesday commissioned its second squadron of US-made MH60R anti-submarine warfare helicopters, adding punch to its frontline fleet, even as works are underway to integrate additional, Made-in-India weapons and sensors to the aircraft.

Christened INAS 335 (Ospreys), the new squadron was commissioned at the home base of Indian naval aviation, INS Hansa, in Goa in the presence of Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Tripathi.

"The MH60R, with its world-class sensors, advanced avionics, and potent weapons suite, will enhance maritime domain awareness and enable rapid response across anti-submarine warfare, maritime strike, and search and rescue missions," he said.

"As we operationalise the capabilities of this platform, we are simultaneously pursuing the integration of indigenous weapons and sensors on this helicopter," he added.

The second unit comes a year after the first one, INAS 334 (Seahawks), was commissioned into the Navy in Kochi.

These are all-weather day-and-night platforms that, besides anti-submarine warfare, can also carry out anti-surface warfare, search and rescue, medical evacuation, and vertical replenishment.

India signed an over-Rs 15,000-crore contract with the US in 2020 for 24 MH-60R choppers made by Sikorsky-Lockheed Martin.

With supply-side constraints delaying delivery, India has received 15 choppers so far, with the rest expected to arrive by 2028. Three helicopters flew at the commissioning ceremony.

In a veiled reference to China and Pakistan flexing muscles in the Indian Ocean region, Admiral Tripathi said the maritime environment around India was more complex and contested than ever before.

Shifting geopolitics, technologies, and an expanding spectrum of threats — from grey-zone activities to supply-chain disruptions at sea — were shaping such a reality, he said.

"Strengthening maritime security and deterrence are fundamental to safeguarding our sea lines of communications, and growing national maritime interests," he said.

Maha minister stripped of portfolios after conviction

MUMBAI, DHNS: In a major development, NCP leader Manikrao Kokate was stripped of the Sports and Minority Affairs portfolios after he was convicted by the Nashik Sessions Court in a three-decade-old case of fraud and cheating.

Manikrao Kokate

As soon as a First-Class Magistrate Court in Nashik issued an arrest warrant against him, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis met Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and decided to strip him off the portfolio.

Based on the recommendations of Fadnavis, Governor Acharya Devvrat allocated the portfolios held by Kokate to Pawar, who is the Finance, Planning and State Excise Minister.

Meanwhile, Kokate moved the Bombay High Court challenging his conviction and sought an anticipatory bail, which would be heard on Friday.

Kokate was admitted to a private hospital in Mumbai after experiencing discomfort and chest pain.

Kokate (68), a five-time MLA from Sinnar in Nashik district, has been in trouble ever since he assumed the ministerial post in the Fadnavis government.

Earlier this year, a First-Class Magistrate Court convicted Kokate and his brother Vijay Kokate in the case registered in 1997 on the complaint of former minister, late T S Dighole.

The Kokate brothers were allotted two flats meant for the Low Income Group (LIG) under the Chief Minister's 10% discretionary quota. They had submitted fabricated documents that suppressed their income.

National Herald case: Kharge calls court order a 'slap' on BJP

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday called a court's refusal to take cognisance of the Enforcement Directorate's money laundering chargesheet against Sonia and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case a "slap in the face" of the BJP, and demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Claiming that the court order should serve as a lesson to Modi and Sha against the alleged misuse of the CBI, ED and other agencies, Kharge told a press conference that the Congress would expose the BJP's "vendetta politics". He said the party would use every forum, from the streets to Parliament, to take on the government.

'Anti-poor': Opposition MPs move amendments to G RAM G Bill

Lok Sabha debates rural jobs bill amid name-change row

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Several Opposition MPs have submitted amendments to the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, or VB-G RAM G Bill, seeking to restore the draft law's original name, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), and to remove provisions mandating states to share the financial burden of the scheme, among other changes.

Discussion on the bill began in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday evening and it is expected to be passed on Thursday afternoon, following a reply by Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who is likely to address the allegations of name change and other concerns.

Senior MPs such as Sougata Ray (Trinamool Congress), K Radhakrishnan (CPM) and Benny Behenan (Congress) have submitted several amendments to the bill, which seeks to replace MGNREGA, convert it into a supply-driven scheme, and mandate states to bear 40% of the expenditure.

One of the amendments moved by Radhakrishnan and Ray calls for restoring the name of the rural employment guarantee scheme to MGNREGA, amid strong Opposition objections to removing Mahatma Gandhi's name from the scheme.

Both leaders have also demanded that the scheme be funded entirely by the central government, rejecting the provision requiring states to contribute 40%. Ray has sought to increase the number of guaranteed workdays from 125 to 150, while Behenan has demanded an extension to 200 days.

With the bill proposing an expenditure ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and states, both Radhakrishnan and Ray have sought the removal of these provisions. The CPM and Trinamool MPs also want the provision requiring state governments to pay unemployment allowance in cases where work is not allocated, placing the responsibility instead on the Union government.

Ray has further demanded that the penalty for violating provisions of the Act be increased from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000. Against the backdrop of the Trinamool government in West Bengal accusing the Centre of withholding MGNREGA funds, one of Ray's amendments also calls for the Union government to mandatorily release pending dues within a month of the new law's enactment.

Behenan has submitted an amendment seeking automatic compensation of 0.05% per day to workers in case of wage payment delays beyond 15 days. He has also proposed a provision ensuring that failure of biometric authentication should not result in denial of work or wages.

Congress MP Jai Prakash alleged that the bill was "anti-poor" and "anti-Dalit". He claimed that removing Gandhi's name from the bill was "the biggest crime".

Congress MPs Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Deepender Singh Hooda, Shafi Parambil and others during Winter session. PTI

PUSHBACK

- Strong objections raised over removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name
- Bill proposes 60:40 ratio; Oppn demands 100% central funding
- Oppn wants Centre to bear unemployment allowance responsibility
- Amendment calls for Centre to release pending funds within a month

Satellite-based toll collection by 2026-end: Gadkari

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari informed the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that a satellite-based toll collection system would be operational across India by 2026-end.

Responding to supplementaries during Question Hour, he said the new technology would be satellite and AI-based, and that commuters would not have to wait at toll plazas.

Nitin Gadkari

"This is expected to save fuel worth Rs 1,500 crore and add Rs 6,000 crore to the revenue. Also, there will be zero wait time at toll plazas," said Gadkari. "Our attempt is to make it to zero minutes, and this will involve number-plate recognition through satellite with AI and FastTag."

"After we introduced FastTag, the waiting time at toll plazas came down to 60 seconds or less, and our income also increased by at least Rs 5,000 crore. The multi-lane free-flow (MLFF) toll is a very good facility. After MLFF came, replacing FastTag, cars can now cross the toll at a maximum speed of 80 km per hour, and no one will be stopped at the toll," he said in the House.

"We will complete this work by 2026-end. Once it is complete, it will help save Rs 1,500 crore, our income will rise by another Rs 6,000 crore, and toll theft will end," he claimed.

"I assure the House that before the end of 2026, there will be zero waiting time for vehicles travelling at a speed of 80 km per hour at toll plazas," he said.

Regarding malpractices by contractors, Gadkari said strict action would be taken against violators.

Waqf bodies must pay court fees: Gujarat HC

Says Waqf tribunals are deemed civil courts

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Gujarat High Court on Tuesday dismissed a batch of petitions and stated that Waqf institutions were not exempt from court fees when filing cases before Waqf tribunals.

This decision means that, like other tribunals, Waqf institutions would be required to pay court fees, which was not the case before.

Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi termed the judgment "historic", claiming "previous Congress government had exempted Waqf institutions from paying such fees as part of vote-bank politics".

A single-judge bench of Justice J C Joshi held that Waqf tribunals were "deemed to be a civil court" and therefore "vested with the same power as exercisable by a civil court" under the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC).

"The statutory scheme clearly envisages that, while the tribunal may follow any additional or special procedure as may be prescribed, such procedure must necessarily be in consonance with, and not repugnant to, the provisions of the CPC," it added. It said Section 83 of the Waqf Act empowered the tribunals to decide issues relating to waqf or waqf property, and such tribunals were "expressly deemed to be a civil court, being vested with all the powers of a Civil Court under the CPC".

The petitioners were divided into three groups — Sunni Muslim Idgah Masjid Trust, Sidhpur; Sarkhej Roza Committee, Makarba; and Vadodara Saher Masjid Sabha Trust, Vadodara.

They approached the HC against a tribunal order that found they had "neither correctly valued the suits nor affixed the court fees commensurate with such valuation".

In 2024, the tribunal directed them to rectify the valuation and pay the deficient court fees. Since the institutions didn't follow the order, the tribunal rejected their applications.

SPECI-FEE-CS

- HC holds that under the Code of Civil Procedure, Waqf tribunals are deemed civil courts with corresponding powers.
- Notes that Section 83 of the Waqf Act reinforces this position.
- Cites applicability of Gujarat Court Fees Act Section 1(5), which governs fees in courts and public offices in the absence of a special law.

Nehru papers not missing, in Sonia's possession: Centre

NEW DELHI, PTI

The government on Wednesday slammed Congress leader Sonia Gandhi for keeping "51 cartons of Jawaharlal Nehru papers" and sought their return to Prime Ministers' Museum and Library (PMML) so that scholars and Parliament can access the crucial historical records of 'Nehruvian' times, asserting that these documents "belong in public archives, not behind closed doors".

Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, in a post on X, also sought to clarify the Centre's written response in Parliament on December 15, and said, since the location of these papers is known, they are "not missing".

The clarification comes a day after Congress took a swipe at the Centre over its response in Lok Sabha to a query on documents related to the first prime minister. "No documents related to India's first Prime Minister have been found missing from the museum during the annual inspection of the PMML in 2025," Shekhawat had told Parliament in a written response to the query by BJP MP Sambit Patra.

Congress MP Sonia Gandhi speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the Winter session of Parliament in New Delhi. PTI

After Nehru's death, the Teen Murti Bhawan in central Delhi became the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), housing a rich collection of books and rare records. The NMML was renamed Prime Ministers' Museum and Library in 2023.

The Nehru papers have been a contentious issue between the ruling BJP and opposition Congress, and a section within the PMML has been pushing for "reclaiming" these papers, which were taken back by Sonia Gandhi several years ago.

Shekhawat, in his post on X, said Nehru papers are "not 'missing' from PMML". He added that the word 'missing' entails that the "whereabouts are unknown".

"In reality, 51 cartons of Jawaharlal Nehru papers were formally taken back by the family in 2008 from the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library (then NMML). Their location is known. Hence, they are 'not missing'," the minister said.

Shekhawat said that scholars, researchers, students and citizens "have a right to access original documentary sources to arrive at a truthful and balanced understanding" of Jawaharlal Nehru's life and times.

"On one hand, we are being asked not to debate the blunders of that era. On the other, primary source material that could enable informed debate is kept out of public access.

Bihar seeks refund from men credited Rs 10k by 'glitch'

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

A piquant situation has arisen in Jale block of Darbhanga district after the Bihar government issued notices to 14 male beneficiaries who had received Rs 10,000 in their accounts due to a "technical glitch". The men have refused to return the money, questioning why the government discovered the error three months after crediting the amount.

"They gave us money. We gave them our votes. The account is settled," one of the beneficiaries, Narendra Ram, told a national English daily.

Ram elaborated on his stance. "If the government says Rs 10,000 was credited to our account due to a technical glitch, then we should have been informed the day it was credited or a few days later. Why this notice for refund three months after paying us? Or, for that matter, why this notice one month after the NDA won with our vote? You return our vote, we will refund your money."

He added that they are poor labourers and have already spent the money on clothes and household items.

PM Narendra Modi launched the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojna on September 25, shortly before the first vote was cast on November 6. Under the scheme, Rs 10,000 each was transferred to 1.4 crore women in Bihar as financial assistance to start their own businesses.

It is widely believed that this dole, meant exclusively for women, proved to be a game changer in the polls, with women voting in large numbers for the NDA and helping the Nitish-led alliance secure 202 seats in the 243-member House.

Around 14 men in Darbhanga also received Rs 10,000 each by default. They have now been served notices to refund the money. Balram Sahni, one such poor beneficiary who is physically challenged, insists he has no means to pay it back.

ACCIDENTAL DOLE

- Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojna, launched Sept 25, credited Rs 10,000 to 1.4 crore women
- 14 men credited by default, now asked to return funds
- Men refuse, questioning why error was flagged three months later

'Homebound' makes it to Oscar shortlist for best international feature

MUMBAI, PTI: Neeraj Ghaywan's much acclaimed *Homebound* is among the 15 films shortlisted in the best international feature category at the Oscars, moving a step close to the final five nominations and maybe a win.

The movie, inspired by a true story that became the basis of a news article during the pandemic, has been creating a global buzz since its debut in the Un Certain Regard category at the Cannes Film Festival in May.

Hollywood legend Martin Scorsese is a fan and has come onboard as an executive producer ahead of the award season.

Produced by Karan Johar and Adar Poonawalla, and starring Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa and Janhvi Kapoor, *Homebound* is Ghaywan's second movie after *Masaan*.

Homebound will compete for an Oscar nomination alongside Argentina's *Belén*, Brazil's *The Secret Agent*, French drama *It Was Just an Accident*, Germany's *Sound of Falling* and Iraq's *The President's Cake*.

The award for best foreign film, now re-categorised as best international feature, has so far eluded India.

Only three Indian films have received nominations in the category -- Mehmood Khan's *Mother India*, Mira Nair's *Salaam Bombay* and Ashutosh Gowarikar's *Lagaan*. Gujarati film *Chhello Show* in 2023 was the last film to get shortlisted.

Telangana Speaker bins BRS pleas against defected MLAs

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar on Wednesday dismissed the BRS petitions seeking the disqualification of defected MLAs, citing lack of evidence. Giving a clean chit to five legislators, he said there was no proof that they had joined another party (Congress). The BRS is likely to move the Supreme Court to challenge the Speaker's ruling.

The verdict was delivered on petitions filed by the BRS, which sought the disqualification of MLAs accused of shifting allegiance to the Congress after the 2023 Assembly polls. Acting on a SC directive, the Speaker had recently concluded the trial under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

The BRS had filed petitions against 10 legislators. While the Speaker delivered his verdict on petitions concerning five MLAs, decisions on three more are expected within the next couple of days. Two legislators, Kadiam Srihari and Danam Nagender, have sought additional time to appear before him. The BRS described the ruling as a mockery of the Constitution.

The five MLAs who were given a clean chit are Arikepudi Gandhi, Tellam Venkata Rao, Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, T Prakash Goud and Gudem Mahipal Reddy.

In a first for the Telangana Assembly, the Speaker conducted in-camera hearings, which included cross-examinations between the counsels of the petitioners and the defected MLAs.

Reacting sharply to the Speaker's ruling, BRS working president KT Rama Rao accused the Congress of "murdering democracy" on the floor of the Assembly. "Merely posing for photos while holding a copy of the Constitution is not enough," he said, adding that Rahul Gandhi would go down in history as an "incompetent leader" who failed to respect the very anti-defection law brought in by his own father, the late Rajiv Gandhi.

YOUTH PUSH

From grassroots to national stage: The rise of Nitin Nabin

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A meeting of the Parliamentary Board, a day ahead of the announcement, paved the way for Nitin Nabin to be declared as the working president of the BJP, *DH* has learnt.

In the meeting, held virtually, Nabin's name was proposed and outgoing president JP Nadda asked the members if they had any objections. There were no objections.

The leadership had kept the party's future till 2047 in mind while naming Nabin, who at 45 years is one of the youngest presidents of the party, sources said. Incidentally, the BJP, too, is 45 years old.

BJP chief JP Nadda with the party's working president Nitin Nabin. PTI

A party leader said apart from Nabin, a few more names of young leaders were in contention. "But some are needed in their states and some are deputy chief ministers," the leader added.

Nabin's imminent ascension as president will take place in January after Sankranti, when the inauspicious period of Kharmas ends.

The election process is a 22-day process and the list of the electors and voters — the National Council — has been made ready.

The list will be made public once the elections are announced and seven days will be set aside for anyone to raise objections.

Sources also said Nabin will continue to be a legislator and not become a Parliamentarian. He will join a long list of presidents who will not be Parliamentarians. Other such presidents include Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Bangaru Laxman, among others.

Nabin will be the second working president in the history of the party, the other being outgoing president JP Nadda, who had been declared working president when Amit Shah was the president.

There is no provision for the position in the party, but it is now seen as the stepping stone for the top job. For the presidential polls to take place, organisational polls must take place in 19 states. Till now, barring Karnataka, Manipur, Mumbai, Punjab, and Delhi, organisational elections in all states have taken place.

5K govt schools have zero students; T'gana, Bengal top list

NEW DELHI, PTI: Of 10.13 lakh government schools across India, 5,149 have no students at all. And more than 70% of these schools reporting zero enrolment in the 2024-25 academic year are in Telangana and West Bengal, according to government data.

The broader category of schools "with less than 10 or zero enrolment" has also seen a sharp surge, according to data shared by the education ministry in Parliament recently.

The number of such government schools grew by 24% over the last two years — from 52,309 in 2022-23 to 65,054 in 2024-25.

These schools now account for 6.42% of the country's total government schools, the government said in a written reply to questions by MPs Karti P Chidambaram and Amrinder Singh Raja Warring in the Lok Sabha.

While Telangana has approximately 2,081 zero-enrolment schools, West Bengal has 1,571 such institutions.

Telangana's Nalgonda district recorded the highest number of empty schools in the state as well as the country at 315. Mahabubabad, with 167, and Warangal, with 135, are the next two districts with the highest number of such schools in the state, shows the data sourced from the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+).

In West Bengal, the capital city Kolkata has 211 government schools with zero enrolment – the second highest in the country. Purba Medinipur with 177 and Dakshin Dinajpur with 147 follow as the next two highest in the state.

The data also showed a decline in the number of government schools since 2019-20 — from 10.32 lakh to 10.13 lakh in 2024-25.

Despite the lack of students, a large workforce remains deployed at these institutions. Across India, 1.44 lakh teachers are currently posted in government schools with fewer than 10 students or no enrolment, up from 1.26 lakh in 2022-23.

U'khand Guv returns UCC & anti-conversion amendment bills

DEHRADUN, PTI: Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh (retd) has returned the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill-2025, which aims to further strengthen the law against forced conversions in Uttarakhand, to the state government.

According to sources, the governor returned the Bill to the government due to some clerical errors in the language of the draft.

This amendment Bill was passed in the Monsoon Session of the Assembly held in Gairsain, after which it was sent to the governor for approval. This Bill was introduced to amend the Freedom of Religion Act, which has been in force in the state since 2018, for the second time. The first amendment to this Act was made in 2022 when Pushkar Singh Dhami became the CM for the second time.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A transition for the long game

The BJP's choice of Bihar minister Nitin Nabin as its national working president may not be a surprise when seen along with the party's recent picks for top positions. Chief ministers Mohan Charan Majhi (Odisha), Mohan Yadav (Madhya Pradesh), Vishnu Deo Sai (Chhattisgarh), and Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan) were all "unexpected" choices and aged under 60 when nominated. Nitin Nabin, 45, takes forward this generational shift as the youngest-ever president of the party. As many veterans enter the final phase of their careers, the BJP is preparing for a change of guard. The shift to the present leadership was not smooth, and the party may want to avoid a similar situation.

Nabin has a political and ideological legacy as the son of a former party leader and MLA. He comes with organisational and administrative experience as a five-time legislator, as a leader of the party's student and youth organisations, and as a minister in the state cabinet. His work, in a state where the party does not have full reins of power, has involved experience in a coalition government. Another significant role has been as the party's election in-charge in Chhattisgarh. Nabin's lack of national experience may have been taken into consideration, but that could also turn out to be an advantage. He will be primed for the top position under JP Nadda and the watchful eyes of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. Although he does not have an RSS background, there is no doubt that approval from the Sangh leadership has been secured. This is a strategic choice that, at once, ensures the continuance of existing power structures in the party and signals a concerted effort to appeal to the youthful and aspirational sections of the cadre that are coming to the fore.

By picking Nitin Nabin for the top job, the BJP signals a shift without disrupting power structures

The new chief will have his task cut out. While the BJP dominates much of the country, there are states and regions outside its scope of dominance. Nabin faces the challenge of consolidating the party in its strongholds while expanding to traditionally unfriendly territory. He will be working with ambitious leaders, which comes with its own set of challenges. It must be noted that Nabin is a nominated president and not a democratically elected leader. The BJP and the government it leads at the Centre have faced credible criticism of weakening the country's democratic structures and institutions. Leadership shifts must also be aligned with the truth that political parties cannot thrive, even survive, when democracy is not in its best shape.

Broken system, lost futures

The recently released India Justice Report shows that the juvenile justice system in the country is in disarray and children in conflict with the law are victims of systemic issues, including mistreatment and apathy. The proceedings in all the 352 juvenile justice boards (JJBs) are marked by delays, and pendency is as high as 83% in Odisha; in Karnataka, it is 35%. While JJBs are present in most districts, 25% of them operate without a full bench — this, when all it takes is a magistrate and two social workers. One-third of the boards do not have a legal services clinic, as required by law. The average backlog of a JJB is 152 cases. Only 11 of them meet all seven minimum standards required under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Fourteen states have not established the "Place of Safety" for 16-18-year-olds involved in serious offences.

The survey was an attempt to assess how the Juvenile Justice Act has worked, and its findings have raised serious concerns. Over 50,000 children across the country are awaiting justice from the boards. The report is based on information collected in a survey of 28 states. This information is incomplete; the country has no centralised system for data on juvenile justice cases. The children stay in childcare institutions during the investigation and after conviction. The upkeep of these homes is often poor, and there is a requirement for more such facilities. Only 28 medical officers are assigned to the 128 institutions, and most of them operate without medical staff. The system has been found wanting on multiple aspects related to the delivery of juvenile justice, including accommodation of children, handling of their cases, and rehabilitation.

Ten years after a promise of change, institutional gaps continue to impede juvenile justice

A country's legal system and culture can be judged by the way it treats its children. The State and society have a greater responsibility to children in conflict with the law than to others. The State should take special care to ensure that the children housed in juvenile homes are treated well and are served timely justice. The delay in the delivery of justice and mistreatment in the homes can harm children in unimaginable ways. A special system to ensure justice to the juveniles was created to shield them from these dangers and to help them integrate with society. The report underlines the failures of the juvenile justice system in pursuing this objective. Its findings call for a strong and studied response that addresses the problem with all its humanitarian and societal implications.

A NUMBER CHASE

Decoding the costs of bad growth

India cannot let political narratives around the "Hindu rate of growth" deflect questions on inequitable progress

JAGDISH RATTANANI

Conventional thinking from mainstream economists down to the average citizen has it that GDP growth is desirable and good. India now reports high growth, with the last announcement giving a surprisingly robust GDP growth of 8.2%. But the nation was not always in that league, and indeed never was, right up to the 1990s when Manmohan Singh introduced the era of economic reforms. Before that, largely, the economic cart of a newly independent nation remained stuck at a growth of about 3.5% on average and 1.3% per capita, all the way from 1947 to 1980. This state came to be called the "Hindu rate of growth", a term that in its origins was entangled with the Hindu way of life, but has subsequently been used almost as a harmless cliché for slow growth.

The phraseology is now under attack, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the charge. The continued popularity of the usage is indicative of "a mentality of slavery", the Prime Minister said last week. In his words: "...an attempt was made to prove that the reason for India's slow growth rate was our Hindu civilisation and Hindu culture."

As the Indian economy races ahead, the Prime Minister has asked: "Have you read anywhere about the rapid growth that India is experiencing today? Have you heard about it anywhere? Does anyone call it the Hindu rate of growth?" The remarks came in a speech earlier this month, highlighting on the one hand what the government sees as high achievement on the GDP growth front and on the other hand, an unstated condemnation of the post-independence socialist approaches and policies that, it is claimed, failed India, a failure that cannot be labelled for Hindu society as a whole.

In a 2007 paper, economists Kaushik Basu and Annemie Maertens of Cornell University referred to the "Hindu rate of growth" as a "tongue-in-cheek expression" coined by the late economist Raj Krishna "to capture the frustration of India's planners" struggling with what appeared to limit the India growth story. "No matter what they did, growth seemed, invariably, to revert to 3.5% per annum, almost as if this magic figure was written in the land's scriptures," they wrote in a footnote. But the roots of that coinage go back to 1973 and to the bureaucrat B P R Vithal, who was a member of the 10th Finance Commission.

Development in context

Vithal's thesis was complex, in part problematic, and has been criticised, but this is criticism not of the kind the BJP has in mind. Vithal's case was centred around preserving what he called the Hindu way of life, which he argued would break down if growth accelerates. In that sense, the roots of the term that is now being labelled as denigrative of a religion or a community are not that at all. Indeed, they are at least in part based on arguments that the Right Wing might see some merit in, given that they are almost fixated on an Indian view rooted in a religion and reject aspects of Western progress.

Vithal did not decry India's historic low growth and, on the contrary, alerted economists and policymakers to the risks of higher growth merely as a target number, arguing to the effect that any faith in a higher rate of growth as a panacea will lead to a breakdown in society as citizens become slaves of Western-style consumption.

Here was an economist not limited to numbers and how they would be achieved, but one who delved right into the sociology of growth and what it brings for a nation like India. It should be clear that India's socio-political dynamic, coupled with its claims of high growth, is already bringing some huge problems that are worthy of serious discussion, rather than the idea of Hindu pride that is supposedly hurt when poor growth is associated with the land. The arguments embedded in the origins of the phraseology and the current questions raised about it bring into sharp relief issues around the structure and the quality of India's growth story. Is growth in and by itself good, a free radical that signals energy and achievement that will take the nation and its people to a higher ground? What are the downsides? Can the growing inequality sustain, or will the present arrangement break down with disastrous consequences?

Ironically, the conversation has hit the headlines just around the time of ugly excesses of corporate power, bordering on national blackmail, seen in the case of the Indigo fiasco. By force-landing the country's biggest airline with a massive cancellation of schedules that were then attributed to an unimplemented safety policy, Indigo gave India a taste of the risks of companies that are too powerful to control and thereby too big to fail. At a different scale, but of a similar kind, was the death of 25 people earlier this month at a nightclub in Goa, with the owners copying the playbook of Mehul Choksi and Vijay Mallya to flee the nation. The airline brought national disaster. The nightclub was a more localised story. But both mock the nation and its growth story in their own ways, highlighting the hidden costs of a faster growth that has beaten the "Hindu rate of growth" but has brought us a disaster that unfolds at periodic intervals to shock the nation and ridicule its governance structures.

In that sense, faster growth is good, but there is a condition called "bad growth". To quote an old HDR report by the UNDP: "Determined efforts are needed to avoid growth that is jobless, ruthless, voiceless, rootless and futureless." But if that is what we get with faster growth, then the "Hindu rate of growth" might even begin to look good.

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Tracks of time, trails of memory

Agatha Christie was right; to travel by train is to see life

RITU KAMRA KUMAR

Sometimes, on languid afternoons, my thoughts start their own little train ride, not bound by timetables, but by memories. One such memory always arrives punctually: the train from Ambala to Jalandhar, winding its way through the golden heart of North India.

Back then, travel wasn't about getting somewhere. It was about the in-betweens — saffron fields sunning themselves lazily, tractors kicking up earthy dreams, and farmers mid-choreographing in their harvest ballet. Temples and gurudwaras dotted the horizon like spiritual punctuation marks in Punjab's scenic sentence.

We, kids, would launch a full-blown cold war for the window seat before the train even chugged in. I remember squinting at station signs like Phillaur and Goraya, the names smudging past before we could spell them — but some etched themselves on our hearts like *henna* on palms.

Our longer adventure — Ambala to Mumbai — was an epic, *paisa-vasool* production! Hills loomed, rivers slithered beneath wobbly bridges, and tunnels swallowed us and spat us out into fresh frames of India. Ratlam's tangy *chaats*, Bhusaval's bananas, and the divine *vada pavs* of Nashik zipped past. The red-turbaned porters strolled in stations, balancing luggage and dignity with equal flair.

Food was our universal language. I still remember a Gujarati couple generously offering us *theplas* in exchange for our spirited *puri-aloo*. Strangers transformed into snack-sharing soulmates, proving that train journeys were less about distance and more about delicious diplomacy.

The train was a place where bankers, barbers, and bored aunties shared the same *samosa* and scenery. It lived up to Agatha Christie's words: "To travel by train is to see life." Though she probably didn't have to share her berth with a snoring uncle and a wayward tiffin.

Nightfall cast its own spell. The world outside flickered by like a dream: silent towns sending Morse code in fairy lights, the moon pacing our window loyally, and stars I knew by name from a library book — Cassiopeia, Orion, my celestial co-passengers. I'd wonder about the families in those distant homes, what stories brewed in their kitchens, and what lullabies rocked their babies to sleep.

Even now, the distant hoot of a train is enough to unlock the floodgates. One whistle, and I'm 12 again, clutching a foil-wrapped *paratha*, wide-eyed and slightly travel-sick but thrilled. Nostalgia arrives like an unreserved passenger — bringing with it the scent of steaming peanuts, the warmth of mom's pickle-stuffed tiffin, and the rhythmic lullaby of steel on tracks.

Planes may be faster. You take off, you land, and boom, you're done. No gurudwaras waving from the horizon, no uncles offering unsolicited political commentary, no toddlers playing peek-a-boo from upper berths. But trains take you back to who you were, where you laughed loudest, and how beautiful the journey really was.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A scholarship issue that merits the government's attention

The introduction of the National Overseas Scholarship in 2014-15 was a noble initiative to provide full financial support to low-income students from historically marginalised communities. However, the recent data presented in the Lok Sabha reveals a grim reality. Even after a decade, the scheme remains grossly underutilised, with a significant number of selected candidates either withdrawing or failing to receive final award letters. The more worrying fact is that very few students from scheduled tribes, especially from states like Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Jharkhand, have received the funds out of a nationwide total of 138. Was the gap due to a lack of merit or a failure of outreach and governance? With proper guidance and institutional support, this scheme can move beyond mere statistics to uplift the marginalised students.
Kyamudin Ansari, Mumbai

When crowd control fails, again

Argentinian footballer Lionel Messi's three-day visit to Kolkata for the unveiling of a statue ended in a disappointing and unacceptable incident. Chaos broke out in the stadium due to overcrowding and poor crowd management, prompting the event to be dispersed. This was unfortunate for both Messi and his fans. Incidents like this should be avoided in the future. Proper planning, effective crowd control, and strong security measures are essential for such high-profile events. State governments and event organisers must take responsibility for such events and plan better.
K Ragavan, Bengaluru

Digital health for all

The Andhra Pradesh government's move to create digital health records for all citizens should serve as a model for the entire country. If all states adopt similar systems, India can move decisively from fragmented, treatment-focused care to a unified, preventive healthcare framework. Nationwide digital health records would improve early diagnosis, reduce medical costs, support data-driven policymaking, and strengthen public health responses. With robust data privacy safeguards and citizen awareness, this reform can ensure equitable, efficient, and future-ready healthcare for every Indian.
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

A plan to aid one party

The One Nation One Election plan is a politically unfeasible, administratively unworkable and constitutionally unviable proposition. It is based on flimsy and shallow grounds: cost savings, policy paralysis, governance interference, and, now, the shiny new claim of boosting economic growth. It is difficult to interpret the logic of disruption to economic activity amid multiple polls. The BJP stands to benefit the most if voters exercise their franchise once in five years.
S S Paul, Nadia (West Bengal)

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

...because there were no satisfactory answers, the Opposition walked out of the Lok Sabha in protest.

- Manish Tewari, Congress MP

A fierce and principled Opposition stops a fat, complacent government from making stupid mistakes.

Peter Hitchens

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Copyright fix: Who owns the song?

The law sees film songs as mere recordings of sound, leaving composers and lyricists without rights to their creations

SUNDAR ATHREYA H

Music is a complex terrain within the field of copyright. Every song subsumes within itself two distinct rights: the right over the composition and the lyrics of the song, and the recording of the song. Both rights are different from each other. Often, the 'recording of the song' is mistaken for the song itself. This is further complicated in India, as songs are primarily consumed as a part of the movie, and the mainstream music industry in India caters to the movie industry of the country.

The song that features in the movie has dual existence; it can be used to convey the story or advertise the movie to its audience, but it can also have an existence independent from the movie. The question that remains unanswered in India is: 'Who is the owner of the song?' And what do they own in it? Is the song owned by the producer of the movie? Or by the composer? Or the lyricist?

Music maestro Ilaiyaraaja, in the recent past, had filed various copyright cases against movie producers for utilising his older compositions as part of their movies without his permission. The primary argument of the composer is that he owns the right to his compositions, and he also has moral rights, such as the right against mutilation of his work. To understand the argument placed by Ilaiyaraaja, there is a need to revisit the Supreme Court's judgment in *Indian Performers Rights Society v. Eastern Indian Motion Pictures Association* from the year 1977.

The Indian Performers Rights Society, the copyright collection society that represents the rights of composers and lyricists, issued a tariff to movie theatres – the objective was to collect a royalty from the theatres for utilising the songs created by its members in the theatres. It is common practice in Western countries to collect such royalties. This was opposed tooth and nail by the movie producers.

The Supreme Court in this case held that the producers own the copyright over the song after its synchronisation with the movie. This was not the position of the law earlier; the Act had secured the individual rights of the creators in the work.

The stance taken by the Court had the effect of separating the creator from the creation. The creator was reduced to a mere agent who was paid for their creation; the judgment disabled them from exercising their economic and moral right in the song.

A time to rethink ownership?

After a long-fought battle, composers and lyricists, under the leadership of noted lyricist Javed Akhtar, mooted an amendment to the Indian Copyright Act in 2012 to secure their right to collect royalties when the songs are commercially exploited in restaurants, bars, and other places. This well-meant amendment was seen as a ground-breaking moment by the composers and lyricists, but the amendment failed to address legitimate issues beyond royalty, or the issue regarding their 'authorship right' over their respective creations.

For instance, recently, the makers of the Tamil movie *Dude* utilised two of Ilaiyaraaja's songs from the past: (i) *Karutha machan* and (ii) *100 varusham indha mappillai*, without his permission. The songs are said to have been featured in key moments in the movie.

The producer of the movie had obtained appropriate permission from the entity that owns the copyright over the 'sound recording' of the song. However, the sound recording comprises the composition and the lyrics that are embedded in it. Every time the sound recording is played, the rights of the composer and the lyricist are also invoked. It requires permission from both stakeholders.

This case saw an interim injunction from the Madras High Court regarding the usage of these songs relating to moral right violation. Later, it also saw an out-of-court settlement involving a substantial sum being paid to the composer. This settlement reflects the validity of the claim made by Ilaiyaraaja.

Courts continue to rely on the 1977 judgment to discuss the issue of 'ownership' in a song. There is a need to revisit this practice and view the film song as distinct and several to appropriately protect the rights of all the stakeholders in a song. To reduce the song to its recording is giving primacy to one aspect of protection and leaving the rest. The song materialises after the synchronised effort of all the creators; the law and business practice should not favour one over the other.

(The writer is an assistant professor at the KIIT Law School)

BJP's Assam playbook: Pro-indigenous laws and massacre reports

DATELINE Guwahati

SUMIR KARMAKAR

For more than four decades, the issue of foreigners has dominated electoral politics in Assam. Till 2014, the dominant narrative was "suspected foreigners" versus indigenous voters, irrespective of religion. But since the BJP came to power at the Centre in 2014 and for the first time in the state in 2016, the saffron party has constantly tried to turn the narrative into Hindus versus Bengali-speaking Muslims.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), passed in December 2019 as part of the BJP's Hindutva agenda for the nation, introduced a new dimension to Assam politics through the issue of foreigners. The anti-CAA protest turned violent first in Assam as it sought to offer Indian citizenship to non-Muslim migrants till 2014, thereby violating the Assam Accord of 1985. In the Accord, March 24, 1971, was decided as the cut-off date for "detection and deportation" of the foreigners, be they Hindus or Muslims.

Under fire from the indigenous communities over the CAA, the Centre exempted areas under the three autonomous councils from the purview of the act. This helped the BJP stem the anger of the indigenous communities in at least eight districts (five in Bodoland, two in Karbi Anglong and one in Dima Hasao). The Sarbananda Sonowal-led government in the State also announced several schemes to pacify the indigenous communities, its vote bank. Parallelly, the party became more vocal against the Bengali-speaking Muslims, whom the BJP considers as "infiltrators" from neighbouring Bangladesh and projects them as a threat to India and the Assamese people. The Sonowal government won the 2021 election, but the BJP replaced him with the party's Hindutva face, Himanta Biswa Sarma.

In the run-up to Assembly elections slated for March-April 2026, the ruling BJP is adopting the same tactics, ostensibly stronger this time, to push its image as "anti-foreigner" and "protector" of the indigenous communities. The BJP was already on a mission to carry out an eviction drive against the Bengali-speaking Muslims, which was intensified in June 2025. Thousands were removed from forests and other government lands. "I will not allow the Miyas to live in peace till I remain the CM. The eviction is not against the tribals and other indigenous communities," CM Sarma announced several times in public.

But on October 23, CM Sarma surprised many by announcing his decision to release the reports from two inquiries into the massacre at Nellie in February 1983, during which 2000-3000 "immigrant Muslims" were killed allegedly by the ethnic communities. Two inquiry reports, one by Tribhuvan Prasad Tewari and another by Justice T.U. Mehta, were made public on November 25.

The reports, although both examined the Nellie massacre, had differing conclusions. The Mehta Commission attributed the violence to the 1983 elections, whereas the Tewari Commission argued that it was not the primary cause. Both highlighted how several conflicts in which the indigenous communities were targeted and killed by the "immigrant Muslims" culminated in the massacre. The BJP is now using the reports to negate the 42-year-long narrative that the Muslims were just the victims.

"The reports have shown how our communities were targeted, killed, their land snatched away and even women were also not spared," Sarma said whilst addressing thousands at an event in Guwahati on December 10, when a massive memorial to the martyrs of the Assam Agitation or the anti-foreigners movement (1979-1985) was inaugurated in Guwahati. At least 860 Assamese people, who had died during the agitation, were recognised as martyrs.

This, according to many, was done to counter the growing anger amongst the indigenous communities over iconic singer Zubeen Garg's death in September and the BJP's failure to fulfil its pre-poll promise of Scheduled Tribe status to six more ethnic communities. From banning polygamy to making registration of Muslim marriages compulsory, the Himanta Biswa Sarma government passed or amended several laws as it gets ready for the Assembly elections. Although polygamy was banned by the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, passed by the Assam Assembly recently, it exempted the Sixth Schedule Autonomous Council areas.

"We have almost ended child marriages by arresting over 8,000 people; we want to end all forms of crime against Muslim women," Sarma said in the Assembly. He said the Uniform Civil Code would be introduced if he became the CM again. Although many of these were included in the budget, the timing of the bills' passage has led many to characterise them as "election-oriented."

Amid strong agitation for ST status for six additional ethnic communities, including the Ahoms and the tea garden communities, two major vote banks for the BJP, the Sarma government amended an act to allow tea garden land to be allotted to workers. The government also sent a proposal to the Centre to address the complexities over the ST status issue.

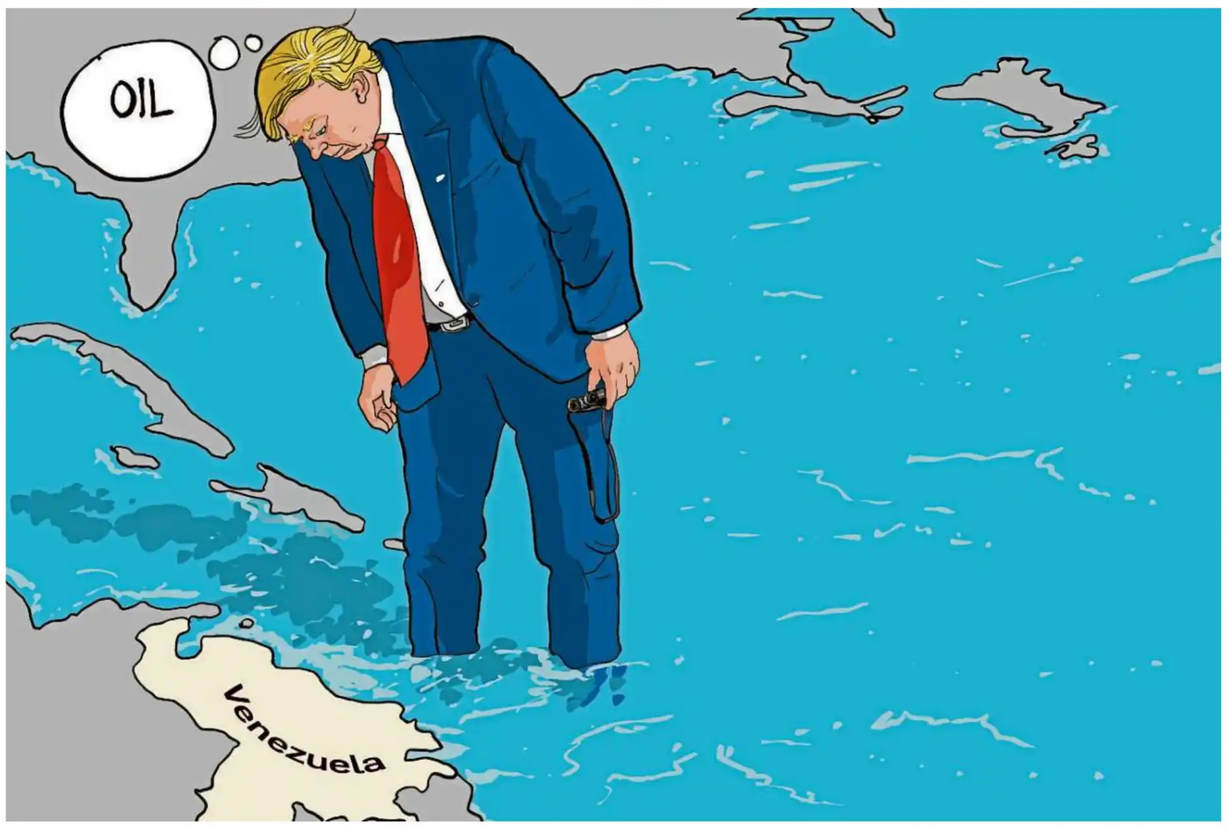
The problem is far from over, but the new proposal may placate a segment, particularly the party workers representing the six communities. The Sarma government also passed an act to protect the land of the satras, the Vaishnavite monasteries, and amended the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to permit the traditional buffalo fight held during the Magh Bihu celebrations in January each year.

The Opposition party, Congress, however, calls all these "election gimmicks" and claims that such tactics would not help the BJP avoid defeat this time. CM Sarma, however, is confident that the BJP will "comfortably" form the government for the third consecutive term.

DHNS

In public, the White House says it is confronting Venezuela to curb drug trafficking. Behind the scenes, gaining access to the country's vast oil reserves is a priority

EDWARD WONG AND JULIAN E BARNES



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Venezuela's oil is a focus of Trump's tirade against Maduro

The Nobel Peace Prize winner delivered her pitch via live video to a business conference in Miami, attended by US executives and politicians, including President Donald Trump.

"I am talking about a $1.7 trillion opportunity," María Corina Machado, Venezuela's main opposition leader, said last month, weeks after winning the peace prize for challenging Nicolás Maduro, the country's autocratic leader.

She highlighted Venezuela's enormous oil and gas reserves, its minerals and power infrastructure. Her message has been unwavering since early this year, when she boasted of her country's "infinite potential" for US companies on a podcast hosted by the president's oldest son, Donald Trump Jr.

She has had a receptive audience.

The president and his aides have insisted publicly that their lethal military operations around Venezuela and pressure campaign against Maduro are mainly aimed at protecting Americans from drug trafficking. But Venezuela is not a drug producer, and narcotics smuggled through the country mostly go to Europe.

Behind the scenes, administration officials have also focused closely on Venezuela's oil reserves, the world's largest.

Their importance is evident in secret negotiations between US officials and Maduro about oil, and in conversations that Donald Trump's aides and allies have had with Machado and other Venezuelan opposition figures.

Trump has publicly made clear his interest in control of Venezuela's reserves. In a speech to Republicans in North Carolina in 2023, four years after he backed efforts during his first term to oust Maduro, Trump said, "When I left, Venezuela was ready to collapse. We would have taken it over, we would have gotten all that oil, it would have been right next door."

The role of oil in the soaring tensions between Maduro and Trump was underscored by the dramatic US seizure on Wednesday of a tanker that was travelling across the Caribbean Sea carrying crude for Cuba and China. Trump said he would keep the cargo, though his legal authority to do that is questionable.

The action was a sharp escalation in Trump's monthslong campaign against Maduro, which has included 25 attacks on boats that have killed at least 95 people, acts that many legal experts say are illegal.

Venezuela and its oil lie at the nexus of two of Trump's stated national security priorities: dominance of energy resources and control of the Western Hemisphere. Venezuela has about 17% of the world's known oil reserves, or more than 300 billion barrels, nearly four times the amount in the United States. No nation has a stronger foothold in Venezuela's oil industry than China.

Trump has spoken repeatedly about getting oil and other natural resources as a reward for US military intervention on foreign soil. In his first term, he said he would "keep the oil" in Syria because of US troops there. He has said the United States should have taken oil from Iraq and Libya as payment for military interventions that toppled those governments.

In 2019, Trump ordered his aides to have Juan Guaidó, the Venezuelan opposition leader at the time, commit to giving the United States access to his country's oil and shutting out China and Russia if Guaidó wrested power from Maduro in a US-backed effort, according to a memoir by John Bolton, then the national security adviser. Bolton called it "vast overreaching."

Maduro sees Venezuela's oil as an important geopolitical tool as well.

The country's leaders rely on China's oil purchases as a bulwark against economic sanctions imposed by the first Trump administration and kept on by President Joe Biden. In April, Delcy Rodríguez, Venezuela's vice president, asked Chinese leaders during a visit to Beijing to increase investment in her country's oil industry and to buy more crude. China already accounts for 80% of Venezuelan oil purchases.

In recent months, Trump's aides have debated how to get greater access to Venezuela's oil for American companies, given Maduro's hostility and China's presence, current and former officials say.

Trump has rejected that offer because other top aides have successfully argued that Maduro cannot be trusted and is playing for time. That camp, led by Marco Rubio, the secretary of state and national security adviser, has pushed for the forcible ouster of Maduro. They argue that a conservative, free-market-oriented leader — namely Machado — would favour US companies and limit Chinese investment.

Trump suggested to Maduro in a phone call last month that he leave office. Maduro has refused to give up power anytime soon, despite the buildup of US military forces in the Caribbean and Trump's repeated threat of going beyond boat strikes to hitting targets inside Venezuela.

The seizure of the tanker and new sanctions on Venezuela's oil sector are aimed at shaking Maduro's stubbornness by demonstrating that the United States is willing to choke off the country's greatest source of income, current and former officials said.

The United States is likely to seize more tankers carrying Venezuelan oil soon, US officials said. As it did last week, the US government could justify any future seizures by citing a history of the tankers' carrying oil from Iran, which is under a stricter set of sanctions than Venezuela.

The United States has seized only a handful of oil tankers in recent years. All those actions have been based on suspicion of Iranian oil being used to finance the Revolutionary Guard, an arm of the Iranian military that the first Trump administration designated a foreign terrorist organisation, said Edward Fishman, a former sanctions specialist at the State Department.

A few more US seizures of tankers carrying Venezuelan oil could prompt companies to avoid the country and lead to a loss of oil revenues, said Tom Warrick, a former State Department official and oil-industry lawyer.

Trump has not spoken publicly about helping American companies get a bigger share of Venezuela's oil as a goal of that campaign. But he has often mentioned it privately, said people familiar with the conversations.

In talks this year, US officials negotiated with Maduro on potential arrangements to push Chinese and Russian oil companies out of Venezuela and to open up a bigger role for American companies.

China has curbed its direct investment in Venezuela's industry in recent years. Maduro appeared interested in attracting greater American investment, US officials said. But he remained adamant about holding onto power, so the talks stalled.

Trump has authorised the CIA to conduct covert operations in Venezuela, and he could decide to oust Maduro violently, using the agency as the spearhead or the US military or both.

However, many experts on Venezuela expect the aftermath of such an action to be chaotic. US officials from several agencies in the first Trump administration reached that conclusion in war games in 2019.

Turmoil in post-Maduro Venezuela could complicate American companies' desire and ability to expand their presence there.

No major Western oil companies immediately entered Iraq or Libya after the US military interventions there that brought down the governments and ignited civil wars. It took years for bigger companies to start operations in those countries. By contrast, Chinese oil companies signed contracts to operate in Iraq's southern fields during the civil war, and they have generally had a much greater risk tolerance for being in conflict zones.

The appetite of large US companies to enter the Venezuelan industry may depend on whether the US pressure campaign and any military operations lead to chaos or stability.

Machado has talked in general terms about how she would reshape the industry if she were to take power. She said in a video address in June to the Council of the Americas, a New York-based business group, that she would implement a "process of privatisation" and have a national agency open the sector to private investment. The goal is for Venezuela to produce about 3 million barrels per day of oil within 10 years, triple its current production rate, she said.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Flaws in state's amended drug law

K V CHANDRAMOULI

The Karnataka Legislature's recent Belagavi session introduced Section 19A in the Drugs and Cosmetics (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 2025. The provision states: "Where any drug or cosmetic is seized from any person on reasonable belief that such drug or cosmetic is misbranded or adulterated, the burden of proving that such drug or cosmetic is not misbranded or adulterated shall lie on the person from whose possession it was seized."

This means that pharmacists and distributors, who receive products in sealed packaging from licensed manufacturers, are forced to prove their innocence, even if adulteration occurs upstream. This has sparked alarm amongst pharmacists, distributors, and small-scale traders. On paper, the law strengthens oversight. In reality, it risks punishing honest stakeholders whilst leaving the real violators untouched.

Traditionally, under both criminal and regulatory law, the burden of proof rests with the authorities, not the accused. The State Drug Control Authority ensures that medicines and cosmetics meet statutory standards for safety, quality, and labelling. Section 19A flips this principle, presuming guilt until innocence is established.

This is not just a legal quirk. Most adulteration and misbranding occur during the manufacturing stage, where compliance obligations are in place. Pharmacists and distributors act in good faith, relying on statutory assurances and regulatory oversight. Under Section 19A, they are required to prove the authenticity of every product, a task that is often practically impossible. Laboratory testing is expensive and inaccessible to small businesses, leaving them vulnerable to seizures, legal proceedings, and financial penalties, despite acting responsibly.

Internationally, regulatory frameworks differ. Both the US Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and European Union regulations place the burden of proof and oversight on manufacturers and regulators, not on retailers or distributors. They recognise that downstream stakeholders cannot verify every product, and penalising them for violations beyond their control is neither fair nor practical. Section 19A departs from these norms.

The practical implications are alarming. Section 19A could discourage legitimate trade, especially amongst small pharmacies and distributors. Many may avoid stocking certain drugs or cosmetics for fear of seizure or legal complications. This could disrupt supply chains, increase costs, and harm consumers, particularly in smaller towns and rural areas where pharmacies are essential for public health. Presuming guilt until proven innocent conflicts with Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees protection of life and personal liberty.

Economic repercussions are also significant. Small pharmacies may have to divert resources to compliance and testing, reducing profitability and limiting service to communities. Fear of legal action could drive traders out of business, consolidating the supply chain in the hands of a few large companies. As a result, costs will increase and access to essential medicines will be reduced.

Another serious concern is the potential for misuse by officials. Section 19A permits seizures based on "reasonable belief," a vague and subjective standard. Coupled with the reversal of the burden of proof, officials could target specific pharmacies or distributors to settle personal or political scores or extract undue advantage. Honest businesses could face harassment, intimidation, or financial pressure, creating a climate of fear that undermines regulatory integrity and public trust.

Even more troubling is that lawmakers appear to have overlooked these practical realities. The provision does not reflect the complexities of pharmaceutical supply chains or the realities faced by small traders. There is no evidence that economic, legal, or operational impacts were seriously considered. Nor does it account for the possibility of misuse by officials. By ignoring these aspects, lawmakers have risked creating a law that punishes the innocent whilst failing to address the actual sources of adulteration —manufacturers.

Whilst the intent behind Section 19A is valid, the method is deeply flawed. A better approach would include strict oversight at manufacturing units, substantial penalties for offending manufacturers, procedural safeguards for downstream stakeholders, and support for verification and testing.

Section 19A represents a serious departure from legal norms, imposing undue burdens on pharmacists, distributors, and downstream stakeholders. Enforcement must target the actual source of violations — manufacturers — not those who merely possess the products. Policymakers must reassess this amendment, taking into account the legal, economic, and operational realities of the pharmaceutical sector.

(The writer is a former deputy director of boilers based in Mysuru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 1975

No movement of Indian troops on Bangla border

New Delhi, December 17
The Bangla Desh Government has been given adequate and satisfactory assurances directly and through the Sattar delegation, which visited New Delhi recently, that there is no movement of Indian troops away from their peace-time locations along the Indo-Bangla Desh border, said a spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs today, commenting on reports in the Western press that India was amassing troops on Bangla Desh border, fomenting communal trouble inside Bangla Desh and that it was planning armed intervention.

25 YEARS AGO: DECEMBER 2000

Thackeray calls for 'disenfranchising' Muslims

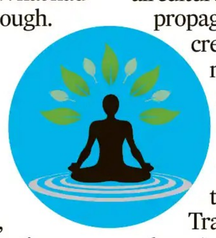
Mumbai, Dec 17 (PTI)
Shiv Sena supremo Bal Thackeray today came down heavily on all political parties for their "appeasement of minorities" and called for "disenfranchising of Muslims to negate the vote-bank politics". Reiterating opposition to his party's decade-long ally BJP's policy of Muslim appeasement, he said in an interview to party mouth-piece *Saamna*: "It might be their (BJP's) stance but I have not accepted it". He claimed that vote-bank politics was responsible for the wooing of the minorities, and if their right of franchise is taken away, all political outfits will become pro-Hindutva".

OASIS | JAMUNA RAO

Transience of feelings

If road rage is any indicator of how emotions can influence action, the Stoics perhaps had a point when they said that feelings are not a reliable basis for deciding action. The emotions of the moment can override rational thought and lead to actions that one may later regret. On the other hand, feelings can also lead to inaction. In fact, the *Bhagavad Gita*, one of the more critical texts on doubt, centres on the possibility of inaction.

Just as the battle in the *Mahabharata* is about to begin, the epic freezes to allow for Krishna's philosophic advice to the *Pandavas*' best warrior, Arjuna, on the necessity of entering the battle. When Arjuna is despondent about the possibility of killing his relatives, Krishna advises him to snap out of it. What had to be done had to be gone through. Feelings would pass.



Similarly, the mind is a battlefield, and emotions often cloud judgment, leading individuals to take ill-advised actions. Even as Aristotle maintains that feelings are integral to ethics, there are situations in which action is imminent and timing so crucial that there can be no debate about its abhorrent consequences.

There is no doubt that feelings and emotions are valuable and even necessary to experience anything. In all cultures, music, theatre, ideas, and propaganda play on emotions to create a desired ethos. Indian music and dance classify the moods and use appropriate musical notes and gestures to convey each mood. Armies use marching tunes and lyrics to inspire courage and sacrifice. Tragedy and farce in theatre have been instrumental in the rise and fall of kingdoms. And ideologies as feelings are equally potent in creating hate, violence and divisiveness.

Hence, there is a need to regulate emotions lest others gain control over them. Even the mind of a sage can be swayed and carried away by emotion. Attachment, anger, greed, envy, and acquisitiveness are forms that feelings take. Reason is of little avail, as emotions can override it.

It is only when emotions and feelings come under control that their transience becomes clear. The ego, which orchestrates all persuasion and justification, stands exposed. There is recognition that all sense-perceived objects are mere manifestations. When the transience of emotions is realised, the only feelings that dominate are compassion and love. A moral obligation to all creatures.

Delhi air pollution: SC allows action against end-of-life vehicles

Modifies order on curbs against diesel vehicles over 10 years old

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In view of the deteriorating air quality in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court on Wednesday modified its August 12 order, which stayed any coercive action against diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years, as it clarified that action can be taken against such vehicles that could not meet the emission standards below BS-IV.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi allowed the authorities to take action against end-of-life vehicles falling below BS IV emission standards in Delhi-National Capital Region.

'Pollution crisis annual affair, requires long-term planning'

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to consider either temporarily closing or relocating the nine toll plazas at the borders of the national capital to ease the usual massive traffic congestion, in view of air pollution here. A bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said to effectively tackle the menace of air pollution, which grips the Delhi-NCR every winter, long-term planning was required, saying whatever efforts made so far were a failure.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati sought the modification of the court's earlier order, citing the adverse impact of such vehicles on air quality. She submitted that the continued use of older, highly polluting vehicles contributed to the air pollution.

It was contended that older vehicles, with their emission standards, are very poor, and these vehicles are contributing significantly to the pollution.

Senior advocate Aparajita Singh, amicus curiae in the air pollution matter, did not oppose these submissions. The bench was informed that BS-IV came in 2010, and BS-III models are before that. It thus modified its August 12 order "to the extent that no coercive steps shall be taken against owners of vehicles which are BS-IV and newer on the ground that they are above 10 years old (in the case of diesel engines) and 15 years old (in the case of petrol engines)".

SC says Calcutta HC best placed to oversee RG Kar case

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday transferred the suo motu proceedings related to the RG Kar Medical College post-graduate doctor rape and murder case to the Calcutta High Court for monitoring the implementation of orders passed in the matter.

A bench comprising Justices M M Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma said the Calcutta High Court would continue to ensure effective implementation of all directions issued so far, including those relating to the investigation, administrative accountability and institutional safeguards.

The bench observed that the matter could not be dealt with in fragments and expressed its inclination to shift the entire issue to the Calcutta HC for continuous monitoring. "It is easier for the Calcutta High Court to monitor protests. Is it possible for us to monitor protests in Kolkata while sitting in Delhi?" the bench asked.

The court noted that the HC was best placed to oversee compliance with the directions already issued, given its proximity to the facts, authorities and ongoing developments.

In November, the SC had said it could not pass "blanket orders" protecting doctors who participated in protests following the rape and murder of the trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

Kuki groups oppose resettlement in buffer zone

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Hours after firing was reported on the periphery of Bishnupur-Churachandpur district, Kuki groups in Manipur on Wednesday demanded that the resettlement of displaced Meiteis near the "buffer zone" be rolled back to avoid further escalation.

In a statement, Kuki Zo Council (KZC) spokesperson Ginza Vualzong said the decision of the Bishnupur Deputy Commissioner to initiate resettlement of Meitei displaced persons in the Torbung buffer zone was "irresponsible and provocative".

"A sensitive administration would have avoided resettlement in such a volatile area. Allowing Meitei displaced persons to resettle in the buffer zone amounts to inviting renewed conflict," the statement added.

The KZC, an apex body of Kuki Zo organisations, is currently engaged in talks with the government to find a solution to the Meitei-Kuki conflict that has persisted since May 2023.

"The Manipur crisis is not a law-and-order issue but a political one rooted in ethnic cleansing. Peace will come only through a political solution," said Vualzong.

Crackdown demand

Organisations representing the Meiteis, meanwhile, demanded a crackdown on Kuki armed groups for Tuesday night's firing that targeted displaced persons resettled in their villages in the Torbung area.

The Coordination Committee on Manipur Unity (COCOMI), a Valley-based group, also sought action against Vualzong for allegedly attempting to justify the attack on the Meiteis.

Torbung, located in Meitei-dominated Bishnupur, was once home to both Meiteis and Kukis until the conflict erupted in May 2023. Following the violence, Kukis fled to neighbouring Churachandpur, a Kuki-dominated district, while Meiteis relocated to Meitei-majority areas within Bishnupur district.

Goa court remands Luthra brothers in police custody for five days

PANAJI, PTI: A court in North Goa on Wednesday remanded Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra, co-owners of the 'Birch by Romeo Lane' nightclub, in police custody for five days.

The brothers, brought to Goa from Delhi after being deported from Thailand in connection with the December 6 blaze that killed 25, were produced in the court after undergoing health check-ups twice at the District Hospital in North Goa.

Judicial Magistrate First Class Mapusa Puja Sardesai remanded the two brothers in police custody for five days.

Advocate Vishnu Joshi, representing Bhavana Joshi who lost four family members in the tragedy, said that the accused were asking for "special consideration" claiming poor health.

"We said they should not be given any extra relaxation," he said, adding that the court has taken cognisance of the fact that this is about the death of "25 people in the form of mass genocide".

"But since they kept pressing for medical check-up, the court ordered reexamination of their health. It is clear in the medical examination that they don't require any consideration. The accused sought special considerations in the lock-up like a good mattress, which the court refused," said Joshi.

The duo was initially taken to a Primary Health Centre at Siolim for medical examination. They were then taken to the District Hospital at Mapusa.

After their health assessment, the two were brought to the court.

The court directed that the accused be sent for fresh medical examination. Accordingly, the two were again taken to the District Hospital.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

ZACH MOOGLEY KEPT ASKING ME OUT...SO I FINALLY HAD TO PUT HIM IN THE FRIEND ZONE!
WHICH MEANS?
WE BASICALLY CHAT AND HANG OUT, BUT NO KISSING AND HUGGING
WORKS FOR ME!

Hagar The Horrible

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH
YIKES! I'VE TALKED YOUR RIGHT EAR OFF! I GUESS THAT'S WHY GOD GAVE US TWO EARS!
AND TWO LEGS!

Beetle Bailey

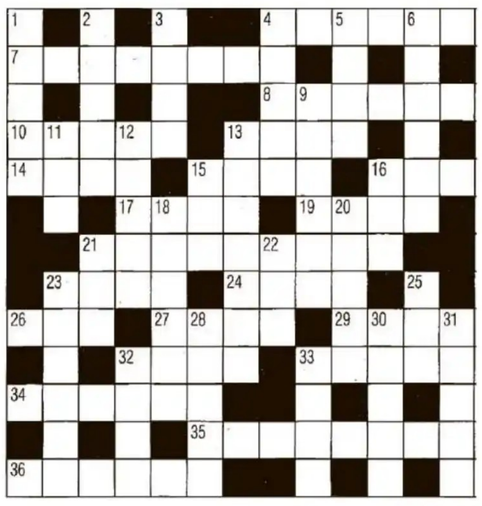
I'LL BE IN MY OFFICE AND I DON'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED
I TURNED OFF THE PHONES AND LOCKED THE DOOR
I GOT A TABLE AT MAMA ROSA'S FOR LUNCH

Peanuts

GOOD MORNING! I'M TRYING TO FIND A HOME FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL DOG
WHAT'S HIS BACKGROUND?
HE'S BEEN LIVING JUST OUTSIDE NEEDLES WITH A BUNCH OF COYOTES
I THINK I'D RATHER HAVE ONE OF THE COYOTES!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12312



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Gatherings of hair by a leader of fashion (6)
7 Main boat-building part of Canada (8)
8 To be accurate, he needs electricity (6)
10 Cook various eats for many (5)
13 Marshy areas not completely safe to the north and south (4)
14 German cherry centre (4)
15 Dear addressees (4)
16 Maybe a mini source of advice (3)
17 It shows the bleeding's stopped (4)
19 Eager to go inside (4)
21 The opposite of elephantine? (9)
23 Sticky sort of sugar? (4)
24 Performs in doubles with not public present (4)
26 A well-rounded part in "Major Barbara" (3)
27 It's of great ominousness in physics (4)
29 In which room-mates may swot (4)
32 The saintly one will astound you! (4)
33 In sport, an offside position? (5)
34 Pay silent attention (6)
35 That containing a composer's jottings? (8)
36 Such laughter can hardly be a belly laugh! (6)

DOWN
1 An accident on court? (5)
2 Go into some forbidden territory (5)
3 Couple having a wild time together (4)
4 A difficulty to confront at the air terminal (5)
5 They're employed by persons with pull (4)
6 A serviceman is equipped to fill one (6)
9 Peter goes after a bit of fun, but it's risky (6)
11 The time to wet dried leaves (3)
12 The crime of a hard-hearted lad (5)
13 If turning red, get ahead, albeit shot at (5,2)
15 Look tired in class again (3)
16 An incomplete lock-up of military importance (3)
18 Make a scene at closing time, just in case (6)
20 Got us upset with relish (5)
21 Less than affable but much admired (3)
22 Jones, a novel character (3)
23 Sound crews taken on board (6)
25 Lad twice in prison for arson (3)
28 Funny rhyme for a fish (5)
30 Her husband's departed, sadly (5)
31 Feed the fires of the Potteries (5)
32 Nightlight (4)
33 He'll take a squint in Debrett's (4)

ACROSS
4 Cause to be empty (6)
7 Vegetable (8)
8 A season (6)
10 Coach (5)
13 Abominably wicked (4)
14 Croon (4)
15 Greek letter (4)
16 By way of (3)
17 Lacking fat (4)
19 Acquire (4)
21 Resolute endurance (9)
23 Not rich (4)
24 Plant ovule (4)
26 Toothed wheel (3)
27 Musical instrument (4)
29 Be ahead in a race (4)
32 Songbird (4)
33 Edge (5)
34 Invent, contrive (6)
35 Parlour game (8)
36 Suture (6)

DOWN
1 Adjoins (5)
2 Adult female human (5)
3 Glance over quickly (4)
4 Call on (5)
5 Apple's centre (4)
6 Adjust a radio (4,2)
9 Serious epidemic (6)
11 Chest bone (3)
12 Inuit dwelling (5)
13 Deer meat (7)
15 Flying mammal (3)
16 Contend (3)
18 Mistakes (6)
20 Confuse (5)
21 Thick mist (3)
22 Golf peg (3)
23 Powerful (6)
25 Witch (3)
28 Hard wood (5)
30 Wear away (5)
31 Thick (5)
32 Wither (4)
33 Doing word (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12311

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Rather 7, Apple-pie 8, Bobs 10, Beat up 11, Strike 14, Led 16, Tenor 17, Emir 19, Dose-D 21, Baker 22, C-omet 23, Woad 26, Scrub 28, Big 29, Thirty 30, Follow 31, Ease 32, Gull-ible 33, Tin-Ted.
DOWN: 1, R-amble 2, Hooter 3, Rasp 4, Flutter 5, Spa-in 6, Me-ter 8, Bal-l 9, Bud 12, Red 13, Korma 15, Joker 18, Match 19, Dam 20, Set 21, Bobtail 22, Cur 23, Wilson 24, Og-le 25, Dawn-Ed 26, Stage 27, Rifle 28, Boa 30, Feet.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Relays 7, Increase 8, Dirt 10, Spades 11, Rebate 14, Bed 16, Natal 17, Mess 19, Tibia 21, Magic 22, Robin 23, Fern 26, Broad 28, Nil 29, Earwig 30, Donate 31, Odin 32, Outburst 33, Scheme.
DOWN: 1, Ransom 2, Abides 3, Sits 4, Arsenic 5, Carat 6, Bevel 8, Dabs 9, Red 12, Baa 13, Taper 15, Digit 18, Extra 19, Tab 20, Bin 21, Modicum 22, Raw 23, Finish 24, Elan 25, Needle 26, Besom 27, Orate 28, Nod 30, Dots.

◆SU-DO-KU-6780◆

4				9	7			3
	2					5		7
7							9	
		4	7					2
			4		6			
1					9	6		
	1							5
2		3					1	
9			8	2				4

hard

SOLUTION TO 6779

2	1	6	8	9	5	3	4	7
4	7	9	6	1	3	8	2	5
3	5	8	4	2	7	1	6	9
8	4	5	7	6	1	2	9	3
6	9	3	5	4	2	7	8	1
1	2	7	3	8	9	6	5	4
7	3	2	9	5	6	4	1	8
9	8	1	2	3	4	5	7	6
5	6	4	1	7	8	9	3	2

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							RACK 1
A1	O1	S1	N1	S1	O1	B3	
							RACK 2
I1	A1	E1	D2	T1	N1	F4	Triple Word Score
							RACK 3
A1	E1	E1	R1	D2	P3	P3	Double Word Score
							RACK 4
S1	T1	P3	T1	A1	E1	U1	

PAR SCORE 180-190
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

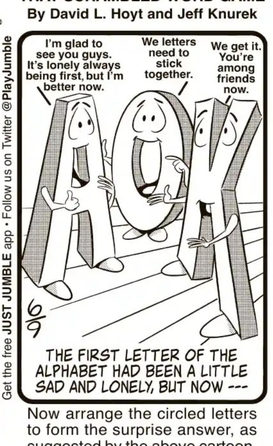
H4 I1 J8 A1 C3 K5	RACK 1	38
H4 O1 N1 K5 E1 R1	RACK 2	13
V4 A1 N1 I1 L1 L1 A1	RACK 3	70
U1 N1 T1 R1 U1 T1 H4	RACK 4	80
PAR SCORE 130-140	JUDD'S TOTAL	201

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SRDSE
AAKPR
GTKNIH
RBWOOR


I'm glad to see you guys. It's lonely always being first, but I'm better now.
We letters need to stick together.
We get it. You're among friends now.
THE FIRST LETTER OF THE ALPHABET HAD BEEN A LITTLE SAD AND LONELY, BUT NOW ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ( ) ( ) - ( ) ( ) (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FRESH TINGE TACKLE HOTTER
Answer: She was wearing new golf attire that — FIT HER TO A TEE

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HITORI-3234

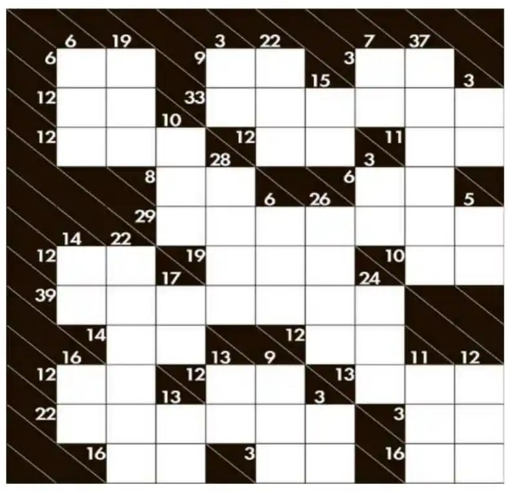
7	3	5	6	7	4	1	5
1	4	6	3	1	1	6	2
2	6	6	1	8	7	1	4
3	7	1	4	3	2	8	1
4	6	8	6	2	6	4	3
8	6	1	2	4	3	5	1
1	2	1	8	6	6	7	5
1	1	3	7	4	6	2	1

SOLUTION TO 3233

2	6	7	8	■	5	4	■
6	■	4	■	8	2	5	7
5	4	■	3	6	1	8	■
■	5	3	4	■	6	7	1
1	2	8	■	3	4	■	6
4	1	■	7	■	3	6	8
3	8	1	6	7	■	2	■
■	7	■	2	4	8	1	3

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3234



SOLUTION TO 3233

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3769

■								2
	■		8				9	
		1	9			■		
	1		7		■	4		
				■	6	8		
		6	■	3	■		2	7
	6	8	3			■		
	3			2			■	
■	4			5	1			■

SOLUTION TO 3768

2	6	7	9	8	1	5	3	4
8	1	3	5	4	6	2	9	7
9	4	5	7	2	3	6	1	8
5	8	4	6	9	2	1	7	3
1	2	6	3	7	8	9	4	5
7	3	9	1	5	4	8	2	6
4	9	8	2	6	7	3	5	1
6	5	1	4	3	9	7	8	2
3	7	2	8	1	5	4	6	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

KARNATAKA VETERINARY, ANIMAL & FISHERIES SCIENCES UNIVERSITY,
NANDINAGAR, BIDAR-585401

No.R/KVAFSU (B)/PG-Admn/2025-26 Date: 17-12-2025

PG ADMISSION NOTIFICATION 2025-26

The eligible candidates for PG admission to the Master's and Doctoral degree programs at the constituent colleges of the University for the Academic year 2025-26 are invited to submit their application online as on the last date prescribed. The dead line for uploading the ONLINE application is 18.01.2026 (11.59 PM). For details of various Master's and Doctoral programs offered at KVAFSU, Bidar Application fees, Mode of payment and calendar of events with respect to Admission please visit **www.kvafsu.edu.in**

Note: The application fees for General Merit (GM), 2A, 2B,3A, 3B is Rs. 1500/- and for SC(A) SC(B), SC (C), ST and Category-I is Rs. 750/-

BY ORDER
Sd/- **(Prof. P.T.Ramesh)**
REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

District Child Protection Unit

Praja Soudha, Dakshina Kannada Zilla Adalitha Kendra, Padil, Mangaluru, Dakshina Kannada District-575007. Tel: 0824-2440004, Email ID: dcpu.mnglr@gmail.com

Request to find the Parents

A Male child approximately 2 years old was found Near Baikampady Rikshaw Stand, Mangaluru Taluk, Dakshina Kannada was produced before the Child Welfare Committee, Dakshina Kannada on 07.07.2025. The Child has been placed in Government Specialised Adoption Agency, Krishna Nagara, Bondel, Mangaluru. Any person who may a valid legal claim over the child is hereby requested to contact within 60 days along with valid supporting documents.

Address:
District Child Protection Office, District Child Protection Unit, Ground Floor, Praja Soudha, Dakshina Kannada Zilla Adalitha Kendra, Padil, Mangaluru, Dakshina Kannada District-575007 Tel:0824-2440004
Email ID: dcpu.mnglr@gmail.com
For Adopting a Child Log on to: missionvatsalya.wcd.gov.in

Sd/-
District Child Protection Officer

DIPR/DK/MPL/1258/25-26

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/DEVP/Infra/CR-114/2024-25 Date: 15.12.2025

Announcement of Re-Tender

Re-tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities through e-Procurement portal in double-envelope mode for Supplier to supply **"UPS"** to the Minority Residential Schools/Colleges and Moulana Azad Model schools in the academic year 2025-26. Details are given below. Interested bidders should apply through online mode under e-Procurement portal.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	**18.12.2025**
2.	Tender Amount:	**Rs. 495.00 Lakhs.**
3.	EMD Amount:	**Rs.7,42,500/-**
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	**23.12.2025 at 11:30 a.m.**
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	**17.01.2026 by 5:30 p.m.**
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	**20.01.2026 at 11:30 a.m.**
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	**23.01.2026 at 11:30 a.m.**
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	**080-22535902/901 080-22535918.**

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4507/MAA/25-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Chamarajpet Division, 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road,
Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560018

No.: EE/CMP/TEND/16/2025-26 Date: 17.12.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Two Cover System) Short Term Tender
(Through GOK KPPP Portal only)

Request for Proposal from interested Firms / Organization those **who have done similar type of work** for Preparation of Detailed Project Report, Consultant for Supervision, Project Management and Quality Control for the project works invited through KPPP system by the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, Zone-2, BCCC invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation / KPWD / Electrical / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organization for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project
1	Consultancy services for preparation of DPR for the work of Renovation and Development works to Maternity Hospital at Rayapuram in Ward No. 154 (137) Call-2 (Est. Cost. Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs). **DPR Cost (Rs. in Lakhs):** 10.00, **EMD Amount in Rs.:** 25,000.
2	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for Resurfacing of bad stretches in Arterial and Sub-Arterial Roads along with restoration of Damaged drain and foot path in Chamarajpet Division. (Est. Cost. Rs. 2000.00 Lakhs). **DPR Cost (Rs. in Lakhs):** 20.00, **EMD Amount in Rs.:** 50,000.
3	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for construction of BBMP Girls High School Phase-2 in Rayapuram and Improvements to Road Pavement, Drainage including cross drainage structure in Rayapuram, Azadnagar, Chamarajpet and SKR Market wards in Chamarajpet Division. (Est. Cost. Rs. 2200.00 Lakhs). **DPR Cost (Rs. in Lakhs):** 22.00, **EMD Amount in Rs.:** 55,000.

Calender of events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Government of Karnataka from **18.12.2025. (2)** Date of Pre bid meeting will at the office of the Executive Engineer (Chamarajpet Division) on **24.12.2025** at **11:00 a.m. (3)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **29.12.2025** and the opening of tenders will be as per the KPPP portal guidelines. **(4)** Technical bids will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in the office of the Executive Engineer, (Chamarajpet Division) on **30.12.2025** at **5:00 p.m.** or next working day. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BCCC

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಶುವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ, ಪಶು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
ನಂದಿನಗರ ಅಂಚೆ ಪೆಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 6 ಬೀದರ 585401 (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ)

No. RGR-ACAD0ADMN/4/2024-ACDM-KVAFSU Date: 17-12-2025

ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಶುವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ, ಪಶು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ **B.Tech (D.Tech)** ಮತ್ತು **B.F.Sc** ಸ್ನಾತಕ ಪದವಿಗಳಿಗೆ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿಯಾಗದೇ ಉಳಿದಿರುವ ಸೀಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರವೇಶ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ **https://www.kvafsu.edu.in/admission.html** ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಆದೇಶದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ
ಸಹಿ/– **(ಪ್ರೊ. ಪಿ. ಟಿ. ರಮೇಶ)**
ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Upper Tunga Project Division, Shimoga. Ph:08182-254832,
E-Mail: eeutpsmg@gmail.com

1 No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-2/2025-26/T.N.No.28 Dated: 16.12.2025
2. 1 No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-2/2025-26/T.N.No.29 Dated: 16.12.2025
3. No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-2/2025-26/T.N.No.25 Call-2 Dated: 16.12.2025

SHORT TERM PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the under signed invites tender through kpp-portal system from eligible contractors for three(03) works coming under Head of Account 4701 Upper Tunga Project, 4701 Tunga Modernisation and 2701 Tunga Anicut Project

1) Apprx. Amount put to tender as per estimation is Rs.420.84 lakhs (Indent no.3602/Call2), **Rs.84.58 lakhs**(Indent no.3658) and **Rs.15.50 lakhs** (Indent no.3377)(excluding GST)

2) Last date for questions/clarifications regarding the tender: **20.12.2025 up to 17.30hrs.**

3) Date for submission of filled tenders from **16.12.2025 to 24.12.2025 up to 17.30 hrs** (during office hours)

Further details on date of opening the tender/detail of work E.M.D. amount/terms and conditions of the tender/Class of Contractor, etc, can be obtained in the Tender Notification or from the office of the Under signed during office hours or in website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** for further details the office of the Undersigned can be contacted during office hours on phone no.08182-254832 Information can be obtained through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
KNNL, U.T.P., Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No-85-12/
zenkar/2025-26

LOOKING TO BUILD, BUY OR SELL A PROPERTY
Please refer Classifieds on Sunday

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Office of the Town Municipal Council, Bhalki
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಪುಸಭಾ/ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ./ವಿಶೇಶ/ಸಿಆರ್–01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFCATION

1) Name of work Indent no : 52566, 52670, 52671, 52692 and 52699, 2) Estimated cost As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 4) EMD amount As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 5) Last date for submission of tender **02-01-2026 4.30 pm,** 6) Technical bid opening **03-01-2026 5.00 pm,** 7) Financial bid opening **05-01-2026 5.00 pm,** 8) Address for communication Chief Officer Town Municipal Council Bhalki Pin code 585328 Phone No:8892941328, Email: ka.bhalki.tmc@gmail.com 9) Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

Sd/- Chief Officer,
TMC Bhalki

DIPR/Bidar/261/KSMC&A/2025-26

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, Building Division, SJP Campus, Bengaluru-560 001, Phone: 080-22255210

No. EE/Bld.1/AE-4/2025-26/62 Date: 17.12.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tenderers for below mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. value: of work (Rs.in Lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakhs)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	No. of Call	Category
1	Construction of Office building in the premises of Karnataka State Seeds Corporation Ltd. Hebbal, Bengaluru under the co-partnership of Agriculture Department and Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Ltd under lumpsum, fixed price, no variation contract – turnkey basis **(PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28773)**	**4689.63**	**47.00** (Rs. 1 lakh to be paid in e-procurement Portal & remaining Rs. 46.00 lakhs shall be submitted in form of Bank Guarantee).	As per KPP Portal.	30 Months including monsoon	1st Call	Other

Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **17.01.2026 up to 4.30 P.M.** Date, time & place of Pre-Bid Meeting: **02.01.2026, 11.30 A.M.** at Office of the **Chief Engineer, C & B (south), K.R. Circle, Bengaluru -560 001.** Date of opening the Tender: as per e-procurement guidelines. Further information and other details can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/4510/KSMCA/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, 1st Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-3/BSWML/Tend/18/2025-26 Date: 17.12.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK KPPP only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the services mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Estimate amount of works (Rs. In Lakhs)	Duration	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Setting up a Resource Centre with 8 Experts in various areas of Swachh Bharat Mission Components for coordination with the training agencies, review of the modules, identification of best practices, knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation etc.	244.80	24 Months	4,89,600/-
2	Appointment of PMC Services for the Work of Shifting of Refused Derived Fuel (RDF) from Dry Waste Collection Centers (DWCCS) and Processing Plants to Bidadi KPCL Waste to Energy Plant and Shifting of Ash from Waste to Energy Plant to Landfill, Phase-3.	992.00	07 Months	25,000.00

Calendar of events: 1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **23.12.2025 upto 17.30 Hrs. in KPP Portal. 2.** Pre bid meeting:24.12.2025at 15.00 Hrs at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore. **3.** Last date for submission of the bids:29.12.2025upto 16.00 Hrs. **4.** Date of opening of Technical bid on :**30.12.2025at 16.30 Hrs. 5.** Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.

NOTE: 1. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk issupport@eprochelpdesk.com. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches. **2.** Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP Portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.

DIPR/CP/4512/AAA/2025-26

KARNATAKA VETERINARY, ANIMAL & FISHERIES SCIENCES UNIVERSITY,
NANDINAGAR, BIDAR-585401

No. RGR/ACAD/CONV/3/2025-ACDM-KVAFSU Date: 17-12-2025

15th CONVOCATION NOTIFICATION

The 15th Convocation of the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar, is tentatively scheduled on 17-01-2026. Candidates who have provisionally completed their UG, PG, and Doctoral degree programmes from this University on or before 20-12-2025 are eligible to apply for the convocation, either "IN-PERSON" or "IN-ABSENTIA." In this regard, online applications are invited from the eligible candidates. For more details, visit the University website: **https://www.kvafsu.edu.in/convocation.html**

BY ORDER
Sd/- **(Prof. P.T.Ramesh)**
REGISTRAR

KARNATAKA SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
3rd Floor, Koushalya Bhavana, Bannerghatta Road
Dairy Circle, Bengaluru -560029, Phone No: 080-29522222
e-mail: kvt.iti@gmail.com & e-mail: eoi-rfp@kaushalkar.com

File No. KSDC/CMKKY/EOI/CR-45/2025-26 Dated:17.12.2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (KSDC) Invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Private Vocational Training Providers to provide training & Placement under the CMKKY Scheme under the **"Yuva Nidhi Plus Training Programme"** in Karnataka. **Document Reference No.:** KSDC/2025-26/PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_7, **EOI Document Download Start Date:** 16.12.2025, **Last Date for Submission of Proposals:** 31.12.2025. The detailed EOI notification and documents are available on the **e-Procurement Portal** (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). For assistance, you may contact the **helpline numbers +91 3240214000/ +91 9240214001** or reach out to this office during working hours.

Sd/-
Tender Inviting Authority and Executive Director-2
KSDC, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/4486/CCL/2025-26

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ,
ನವನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ಸಂ. ಹು.ಧಾ.ನ.ಪ್ರಾ/ಅವಿ/.ಟೆ.ನೋ.ನಂ.21/2025–26/4488 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.12.2025

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW-4 ರನ್ವಯ a) (INDENT No.56) b) (INDENT No.57) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಲೈಸೆನ್ಸ್ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್/ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮಯದೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. 2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17.01.2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆ.** 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **19.01.2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆ** 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **22.01.2026 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ,** ಆಗದಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಗೊತ್ತುಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು, ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾದರಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ದಾಖಲೆ KW-4 ದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಅಭ್ಯಸಿಸಿ ಅರ್ಥೈಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಏನಾದರೂ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಯುಕ್ತರು,
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/ದಿಶಾ/997/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ರಾಜ್ಯ ಯುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–22215601, 22211246 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 22215602

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಕ್ರೀಪ್ರಾ/ಸಿ5/53/ 2024–25 [ಭಾಗ–01] ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.12.2025

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯದ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ 30–11–2026 ರವರೆಗೆ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಸಂಚಿತ ವೇತನ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ತರಬೇತುದಾರರ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಭಾರತದ ಅರ್ಹ ನಾಗರೀಕರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ.

(01) ಬೀದರ್ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ : ಅಥ್ಲೆಟಿಕ್ಸ್ : 01, (02) ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ : ಅಥ್ಲೆಟಿಕ್ಸ್ : 01 (3) ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ : ಜಿಮ್ನಾಸ್ಟಿಕ್ಸ್ : 01 (04) ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ : ಹಾಕಿ : 01 (05) ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ : ಹಾಕಿ : 01, ಫುಟ್ಬಾಲ್ : 01.

ಅರ್ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಪೂರಕ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 05–01–2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಮಹಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಯುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–56001 ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಾಸಿಕ ಸಂಚಿತ ವೇತನ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಮಾನದಂಡ ವಿವರಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ **dyes.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಹಾಗೂ ಮಹಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

DIPR/CP/4508/Zen/2025-26

SHIVAMOGGA CITY CORPORATION, SHIVAMOGGA
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಶಿಮನಪಾಶಿ/ಕಾ.ವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/40/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders have been invited through KPP portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Standard Tender Document procedure to undertake the following work/Service in the limits of Shivamogga City Corporation. The bidders who are interested in participating through KPP portal can obtain the details in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

1.Last date for submission of tender through KPP portal : **31.12.2025 (upto 4.00 P M). 2.** Date of opening of Technical bid through KPP portal : **01.01.2026 (at 4.30 P M). 3.** Date of opening of Financial bid through KPP portal : **02.01.2026 (at 4.30 P M)**

Sl No.	Indent NO.	Details of works	Approx. amount (Rs in lakhs)	EMD amount Rs.	Grants
1.	DMA/2025-26/SE6787	Providing Third Party Services to Shivamogga City Corporation.	90.00	1,80,000	Corporation General Fund Grant

NOTE: 1. Any changes or corrigendum pertaining to this tender will be notified in KPP portal only. More details can be obtained from KPP portal and other details during office hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer City Corporation, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No-84.12/
zenkar/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Reg. Office: 30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru- 560051.

No: DGM-3/BSWML/PR/716/2025-26 Date: 17.12.2025

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

1. Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited invites EOI from the eligible firms for the work of "Providing exposure visit service for for the Executive officials, Technical officials and Pourakarmikas as part of the capacity-building programme".

Name of the Work:
Providing exposure visit service for forthe Executive officials, Technical officials and Pourakarmikasas part of the capacity-building programme.

2. This EOI is invited only for obtaining market rates to prepare the estimates.
3. The details of the EOI can be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** / from **19.12.2025.**
4. Last date (deadline) to receive the response is: **29.12.2025 upto 4.00 PM** through KPPP portal.
5. Date of opening of responses is **30.12.2025 after 4.30 PM through KPPP portal.**
6. The Right to Accept/Reject an any or all responses received is reserved with the Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.

DIPR/CP/4513/2025-26

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–ಹರಿಹರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಬಡಾವಣೆ, 'ಎ' ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ಪಿ.ಬಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–06
ನಂ:ದಾಹನಪ್ರಾ:ತಾಶಾ:ಎಇಇ:ಕಸಾಸಂಪೋ:ಟೆಂಪ್ರ:12:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:17–12–2025.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್)

ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–ಹರಿಹರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಮುಂಗಡ ಹಣ ಠೇವಣಿ (ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.) ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಧ	ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಲು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ)
1	DHUDA/2025-26 /OW/WORK_INDENT43	ಮಹಾಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–ಹರಿಹರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಪಾಮೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ತೋಳಹುಣಸೆ ಎಸ್ ಹೆಚ್–76 ರವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ.	100.00	82,89,303.00	1,65,786/–	3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು (ಸಿವಿಲ್)	ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3	5 ತಿಂಗಳು
2	DHUDA/2025-26 /OW/WORK_INDENT44	ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ನಗರದ ಕಾಸಲ್‌ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ ಪಾರ್ಕ್‌ನ ಒಳಗಡೆ ವಾಟರ್ ಟ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಒಳಗಡೆ ಅಲಂಕಾರಿಕ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಂಬಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿ ಎಲ್.ಇ.ಡಿ. ಬೀದಿ ದೀಪ ಅಳವಡಿಸಿ ಬೆಳಕಿನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವುದು.	60.00	49,99,617.93	1,00,000/–	1ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್)	ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3	4 ತಿಂಗಳು
3	DHUDA/2025-26 /OW/WORK_INDENT47	ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–ಹರಿಹರ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ಶ್ರೀ ಜೆ.ಹೆಚ್. ಪಟೇಲ್ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಉದ್ಯಾನವನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ಬೆಂಚ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು.	48.00	40,06,324.00	80,200/–	3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು (ಸಿವಿಲ್)	ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2	3 ತಿಂಗಳು

Last date & time for tender queries /clarifications 23-12-2025 upto 17.00 hours
Last date and time for receipt of tender 24-12-2025 upto 17.00 hours
Date & time for opening of (Technical bids) 26-12-2025 at 11.00 hours
Note: The rates quoted, whether specified or not, in the tender as per sanctioned estimate are inclusive of all lead and lifts and all other incidental charges to complete the work successfully.
1) ಯಾವ ಕಾರಣವನ್ನು ಸಹ ನೀಡದೇ ಯಾವುದೇ ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 2) ಅಪೂರ್ಣ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. 3) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಬೇಕಾಗುವ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಗುಣಮಟ್ಟದ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ನೇಮಿಸುವ ಮೂರನೇ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ತಪಾಸಣಾ ತಂಡದವರಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ನಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಲು ಬದ್ಧರಾಗಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/562/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26 ಸಹಿ/– ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ದಾ–ಹ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

NATIONAL SECURITY

US adds 20 more countries to travel ban, restrictions list

Proclamation cites vetting gaps and security risks

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

The Trump administration has expanded its travel ban and restrictions to 20 additional nations, as well as the Palestinian Authority, as part of its efforts to "protect US national security and public safety interests".

US President Donald Trump signed a proclamation on Tuesday expanding and strengthening entry restrictions on nationals from countries with "demonstrated, persistent, and severe deficiencies" in screening, vetting, and information-sharing to protect America from national security and public safety threats.

The proclamation said these measures are necessary to prevent the entry of foreign nationals about whom the US "lacks sufficient information to assess the risks they pose, garner cooperation from foreign governments, enforce our immigration laws, and advance other important foreign policy, national security, and counterterrorism objectives."

It imposed partial restrictions and entry limitations on 15 additional countries - Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominica, Gabon, The Gambia, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Tonga, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

- **Partial entry restrictions imposed on 15 countries, including Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.**
- Full restrictions were imposed on holders of Palestinian Authority-issued travel documents

Full restrictions and entry limitations were also imposed for nationals of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, and Syria.

Full restrictions and entry limitations have also been placed on individuals holding Palestinian Authority-issued travel documents, as several "US-designated terrorist groups operate actively in the West Bank or Gaza Strip and have murdered American citizens," it said, adding that the recent war in these areas likely resulted in compromised vetting and screening abilities. "...Considering the weak or nonexistent control exercised over these areas by the PA (Palestinian Authority), individuals attempting to travel on PA-issued or endorsed travel documents cannot currently be properly vetted and approved for entry into the United States."

The proclamation also imposed full restrictions and entry limitations on Laos and Sierra Leone that were previously subject to partial restrictions, and continued partial restrictions on nationals from Burundi, Cuba, Togo, and Venezuela.

The entry of nationals from additional countries must be restricted or limited to protect US national security and public safety interests, the proclamation said.

It continues full restrictions and entry limitations of nationals from the original "12 high-risk countries named by the Trump administration - Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen."

US imposes oil tanker blockade on Venezuela

Trump escalates pressure on Maduro's government

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

US President Donald Trump said he was ordering a blockade of all "sanctioned oil tankers" entering Venezuela, sharply escalating pressure on the country's authoritarian leader, Nicolas Maduro, in a move that appeared aimed at further tightening the grip on the South American nation's economy.

Trump's escalation comes after US forces last week seized an oil tanker off Venezuela's coast, an unusual step that followed a build-up of military assets in the region. Announcing the blockade in a social media post on Tuesday night, Trump alleged that Venezuela was using oil revenues to fund drug trafficking and other crimes. He vowed to continue the military build-up until Venezuela handed over oil, land and other assets to the US, though it was unclear on what basis he believed Washington had such a claim.

"Venezuela is completely surrounded by the largest armada ever assembled in the history of South America," Trump wrote. "It will only get bigger, and the shock to them will be like nothing they have ever seen before — until such time as they return to the United States of America all of the oil, land and other assets that they previously stole from us."

Pentagon officials referred all questions regarding the announcement to the White House.

Venezuela's government issued a statement accusing Trump of "violating international law, free trade and the principle of free navigation" through what it called a reckless and grave threat.

"On his social media, he assumes that Venezuela's oil, land and mineral wealth are his property," the statement said. "Consequently, he demands that Venezuela immediately hand over all its riches. The President of the United States intends to impose, in an utterly irrational manner, a supposed naval blockade on Venezuela with the aim of stealing wealth that belongs to our nation." Maduro's government said it would raise the issue before the UN.

The US military build-up has coincided with a series of strikes on boats in international waters in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific. The campaign, which has drawn bipartisan scrutiny from US lawmakers, has killed at least 95 people in 25 known strikes on vessels.

Russian President Vladimir Putin takes part in a ceremony to present Gold Star medals to service members, who were involved in the country's military campaign in Ukraine, in Moscow on Wednesday. REUTERS

Putin warns of expanded Ukraine offensive if peace terms rejected

US readies new sanctions if Putin rejects peace deal

MOSCOW, AP/PTI/REUTERS

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday warned that Moscow would seek to extend its territorial gains in Ukraine if Kyiv and its Western allies reject the Kremlin's demands during peace talks.

US President Donald Trump has launched an extensive diplomatic push to end nearly four years of fighting following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. However, Washington's efforts have run into sharply conflicting demands from Moscow and Kyiv.

Speaking at an annual meeting with top military officers, Putin said Russia would prefer to achieve its objectives and "eliminate the root causes of the conflict" through diplomatic means. However, he warned that "if the opposing side and its foreign patrons refuse to engage in substantive dialogue, Russia will achieve the liberation of its historical lands by military means".

Putin claimed that the Russian army has seized and is firmly holding the strategic initiative along the entire front line. He also warned that Moscow would move to expand a "security buffer zone" along the Russian border.

"Our troops are different now. They are battle-hardened, and there is no other such army in the world today," he said.

The United States is preparing a further round of sanctions on Russia's energy sector to increase the pressure on Moscow should Putin reject a peace deal with Ukraine, Bloomberg News reported on Wednesday.

The US is considering options such as targeting vessels in Russia's so-called shadow fleet of tankers used to transport Moscow's oil, and traders who facilitate the transactions, the report said.

South African authorities raid US refugee processing centre

JOHANNESBURG, AP/PTI

A centre in South Africa processing applications for the United States refugee programme was raided by immigration and law enforcement officers and seven Kenyan nationals were arrested for working there illegally, South Africa's Home Affairs Ministry said Wednesday.

The centre in Johannesburg was processing applications by white South Africans under the Trump administration's new programme, giving them priority for refugee status in the US

The Kenyans were working at the centre alongside US officials despite entering South Africa on tourist visas, which did not allow them to work, the Home Affairs Ministry said in a statement. It said no US officials were arrested in the raid on Tuesday, and it was not a diplomatic site. The raid is bound to increase tensions between the US and South Africa. US President Donald Trump has been especially critical of the South African government since he returned to office, claiming the country is violently persecuting its white Afrikaner minority and also pursuing an anti-American foreign policy.

The first group of Afrikaners from South Africa arrive for resettlement at the Washington Dulles Airport in Virginia. AFP FILE

Trump's widely rejected claims over the treatment of Afrikaners in South Africa led to his administration setting up the programme offering them refugee status in the US.

South Africa's government has said that white South Africans do not meet the criteria for refugee status because there is no persecution, but says it won't stop them from applying for relocation.

The South African Home Affairs Ministry didn't immediately say who the Kenyans worked for, but the US government contracted a Kenya-based company, RSC Africa, to process the refugee applications by white South Africans, according to the US Embassy in South Africa. RSC is operated by Church World Service, a US-based nongovernmental organisation

Pakistan extends airspace ban for Indian aircraft

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE, PTI: Pakistan on Wednesday extended its airspace ban for Indian aircraft by another month till January 23.

Pakistan closed its airspace to India's airlines in April after the Pahalgam attack. India too has imposed a similar ban on Pakistan.

The previous extension was set to expire on December 24 but the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) extended the restrictions on Wednesday till January 23.

"Pakistan airspace will remain closed to Indian-registered aircraft, including all aircraft owned, operated, or leased by Indian airlines, as well as Indian military flights," the PAA said.

According to the NOTAM (Notice to Airmen), the restriction, which has already been in force, "will continue until January 23, 2026.

China says it opposes 'unilateral bullying'

China opposes "unilateral bullying" and supports countries in safeguarding their own sovereignty, Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Venezuelan counterpart on Wednesday, Reuters reports from Beijing.

Wang said in a phone call with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil that China and Venezuela are strategic partners and that mutual trust and support are a tradition of bilateral ties, according to a Chinese foreign ministry statement. "China believes the international community understands and supports Venezuela's position in defending its legitimate rights and interests," he said.

Bondi Beach gunman charged with 15 counts of murder

SYDNEY, AP/PTI

A suspected gunman in Sydney's Bondi Beach massacre was charged with 59 offences, including 15 charges of murder, on Wednesday, as hundreds of mourners gathered in Sydney to begin funerals for the victims.

Two shooters slaughtered 15 people on Sunday in an antisemitic mass shooting targeting Jews celebrating Hanukkah at Bondi Beach, and more than 20 other people are still being treated in hospitals. All of those killed by the gunmen who have been identified so far were Jewish. Police said that Naveed Akram, the 24-year-old suspected shooter, was charged on Wednesday after waking from a coma in a Sydney hospital, where he has been since police shot him and his gunman father at Bondi. His 50-year-old father, Sajid Akram, died at the scene.

The charges include one count of murder for each fatality and one count of committing a terrorist act.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese attends a memorial service in Sydney on Wednesday. REUTERS

'SLANTED EYES'

Finland's PM apologises to Asian nations over racism scandal

HELSINKI, REUTERS

Finland's prime minister apologised to Asian nations on Wednesday as he sought to contain a growing controversy over derogatory images posted by far-right members of the Nordic country's parliament.

Dubbed the "slanted eyes" scandal by Finnish media, the incident is the latest in a series of cases in which members of the Finns Party, a junior partner in the governing coalition, have been accused of posting or making racist remarks.

Prime Minister Petteri Orpo of the pro-business National Coalition Party, who leads a four-party coalition that includes the Finns, issued a statement offering his sincere apologies. "These posts do not reflect Finland's values of equality and inclusion," Orpo said in statements released by Finnish embassies in China, Japan and South Korea.

The controversy arose earlier this month when the Miss Finland title holder Sarah Dzafce was pictured pulling back her eyes in her friend's social media post captioned "eating with a Chinese person".

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Palestinians gather to receive food at a charity kitchen in Khan Yunis, Gaza on Wednesday. AFP

Investigators release additional video of possible Brown gunman

Authorities have asked the public for any footage they might have of the gunman who fatally shot two students and wounded nine others at Brown University, even as they released a new video timeline and a slightly clearer image of a possible suspect, AP/PTI reports from Providence (US).

Investigators provided no indication Tuesday that they were any closer to zeroing in on his identity. In all the videos made public, the suspect's face was masked or turned away, and authorities have only been able to give a vague description of him as being stocky and about 5 feet, 8 inches tall. Officers have been canvassing around Providence in search of clues that might help them figure out who was behind Saturday's campus shooting. Surveillance video the FBI posted online before it was removed showed a person in dark clothing walking along multiple sidewalks for about an hour starting shortly after 2 pm on Saturday. The streets were all within a few blocks of the Brown University engineering building, where the shooting occurred. Some clips show the person walking in front of some properties several times.

Louvre workers to extend strike

Employees at the Louvre Museum voted on Wednesday to extend a strike that has disrupted operations at the world's most visited museum, AP/PTI reports from Paris.

Union workers were protesting chronic understaffing, building deterioration and recent management decisions — pressures intensified by a brazen crown jewels heist in October. The decision came during a morning general assembly, after workers had adopted the walkout unanimously earlier this week. The museum was already closed on Tuesday for its regular weekly shutdown. It remained unclear whether the strike would force a full closure on Wednesday. Visitors holding tickets queued outside the museum in the morning as management assessed staffing levels and whether enough employees were available to safely open galleries.

Farmers and members of agricultural unions protest against culling protocol for cattle herds affected by lumpy skin disease in Aude prefecture, Carcassonne, France, on Wednesday. AFP

Case against Imran's sisters

Pakistan police on Wednesday registered a case under the anti-terrorism act against the sisters of former premier Imran Khan and dozens of his supporters for a protest sit-in outside the Adiala Jail, PTI reports from Islamabad.

Khan's sisters and his Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf leaders and workers protested outside the jail on Tuesday after the authorities refused to allow a meeting of relatives and lawyers with the incarcerated leader. An FIR was registered against Khan's two sisters - Aleema Khan and Noreen Niazi - as well as party leaders and supporters, including Salman Akram Raja, Naeem Panjotha and Qasim Khan.

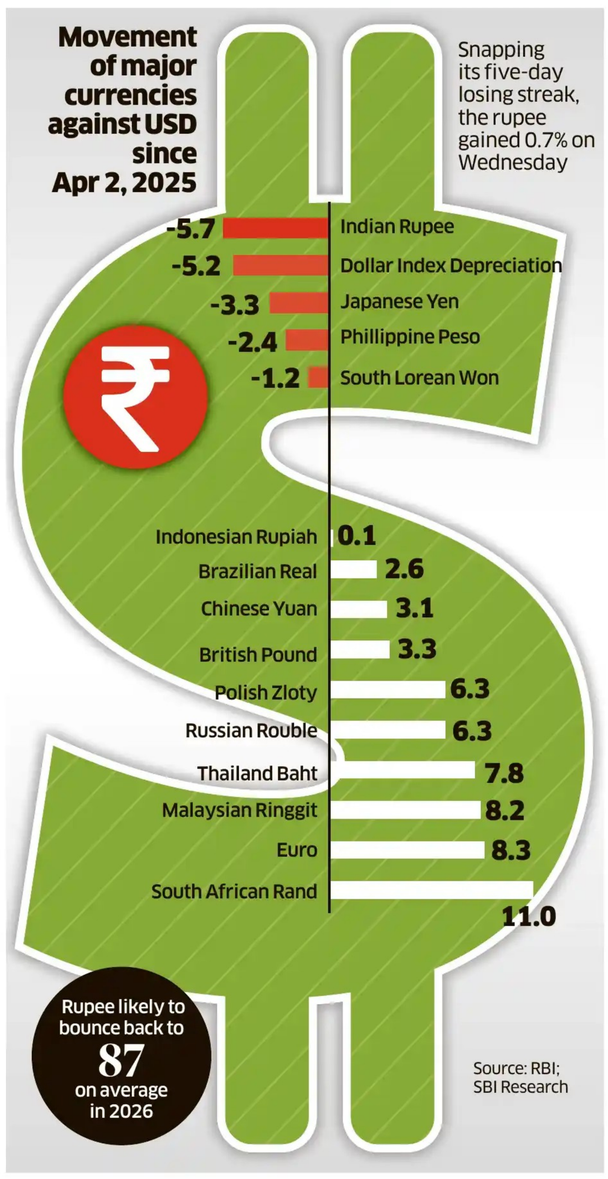
Worshippers kidnapped in Nigeria

At least 13 worshippers were abducted when gunmen attacked a church in Kogi state amid rising insecurity, Reuters reports from Abuja.

Kogi Information Commissioner Kingsley Fanwo said the assault on First ECWA church, in the remote Ayetoro-Kiri community, on Sunday sparked a gunfight between the attackers and local hunters employed by the state as a first line of defence. Four of the attackers were killed and at least 10 others sustained wounds, Fanwo said, adding that security forces remained on the trail of the fleeing kidnappers. The attack is the latest in a series of abductions in central Nigeria.

The new F-35 fighter jet ordered by Finland is unveiled during a rollout ceremony at the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics facility in Fort Worth, Texas, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Rupee fall acts as 'shock absorber' for high US tariffs: SBI Research


Movement of major currencies against USD since Apr 2, 2025
Snapping its five-day losing streak, the rupee gained 0.7% on Wednesday
-5.7 Indian Rupee
-5.2 Dollar Index Depreciation
-3.3 Japanese Yen
-2.4 Phillippine Peso
-1.2 South Lorean Won
Indonesian Rupiah 0.1
Brazilian Real 2.6
Chinese Yuan 3.1
British Pound 3.3
Polish Zloty 6.3
Russian Rouble 6.3
Thailand Baht 7.8
Malaysian Ringgit 8.2
Euro 8.3
South African Rand 11.0
Rupee likely to bounce back to 87 on average in 2026
Source: RBI; SBI Research

Indian currency posts biggest single-day gain in two months

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The sharp depreciation in the value of the Indian rupee, which slipped below 91 against a dollar on Tuesday, has acted as a "shock absorber" for the high US tariffs, SBI Research said.

"Recent exports data validate this fact... India's goods exports witnessed an excellent turnaround recently and in November exports grew by a whopping 19.4%," it said.

The Indian rupee has depreciated by 5.7% against the dollar since US President Donald Trump announced sweeping tariff hikes across economies on April 2. The rupee has been the worst performing currency among major economies so far, this year.

In fact, the other major currencies like the euro, British pound, Chinese yuan, Russian rouble and South African rand have appreciated against the US dollar since April. the rand has appreciated by 11%, while the euro has strengthened by 8.3% against the US currency in the past eight months.

SBI Research noted in its report that the steep "50% tariffs imposed on India is one of the major factors behind the current phase of rupee depreciation".

The currency depreciation has made India's exports more competitive. This was reflected in the November trade data. India's exports jumped 19.38% year-on-year to $38.13 billion in November. Shipments to the US soared by 22.6% to $6.98 billion during the month under review. A sharp jump in exports led to reduction in the trade deficit, which fell to a five-month low of $24.53 billion in November.

However, this trend is unlikely to be sustained. "Although the direction and magnitude of the responses suggest that trade volumes are elastic with respect to the exchange rate, the effects on exports and imports are broadly comparable in size and opposite in sign, resulting in a substantial degree of offsetting," SBI Research said.

"Despite measurable short-run sensitivity of both exports and imports to rupee depreciation, the dynamic effects largely cancel out, rendering the trade balance relatively insensitive to exchange rate shocks in the current period," it said.

Referring to trends and historical analysis, SBI Research forecasted that the rupee is likely to appreciate by at least 6.5% from the current level. It is likely to bounce back to 87 on average in 2026. On the flip side, the rupee may depreciate further to 92-92.5 against a dollar in six months.

Snapping its five-day losing streak, the rupee gained 0.7% on Wednesday, the biggest single-day gains in two months. It appreciated to 90.38 per US dollar on Wednesday from its last closing price of 91.02.

The sharp Wednesday's appreciation in the value of rupee, according to analysts, is because of the Reserve Bank of India's intervention in the forex markets.

"The rupee rebounded sharply from near 91.00 to around 90.35, likely aided by intervention, snapping a multi-day losing streak. However, the sustainability of this recovery remains uncertain as India–US trade deal clarity is still awaited and FII selling continues. Volatility is expected to persist, with the rupee likely to trade in the 89.80–90.80 range," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities.

India's forex reserves fell to $687.2 billion for the week ended December 5, from a high of $703 billion recorded in June.

Despite major AI investments, workplace fear dents adoption

BENGALURU, DHNS

Creating psychological safety in an era of Artificial Intelligence (AI) requires more than good intentions or blanket HR policies; it necessitates explicit messaging about AI's realistic capabilities, limits, and approved use cases, a new report by Infosys and MIT Technology Review Insights revealed.

RAFEE TARAFDAR
Infosys CTO

"When employees feel empowered to experiment without fear of failure, innovation thrives. This culture of trust and openness enables teams to unlock the full potential of AI

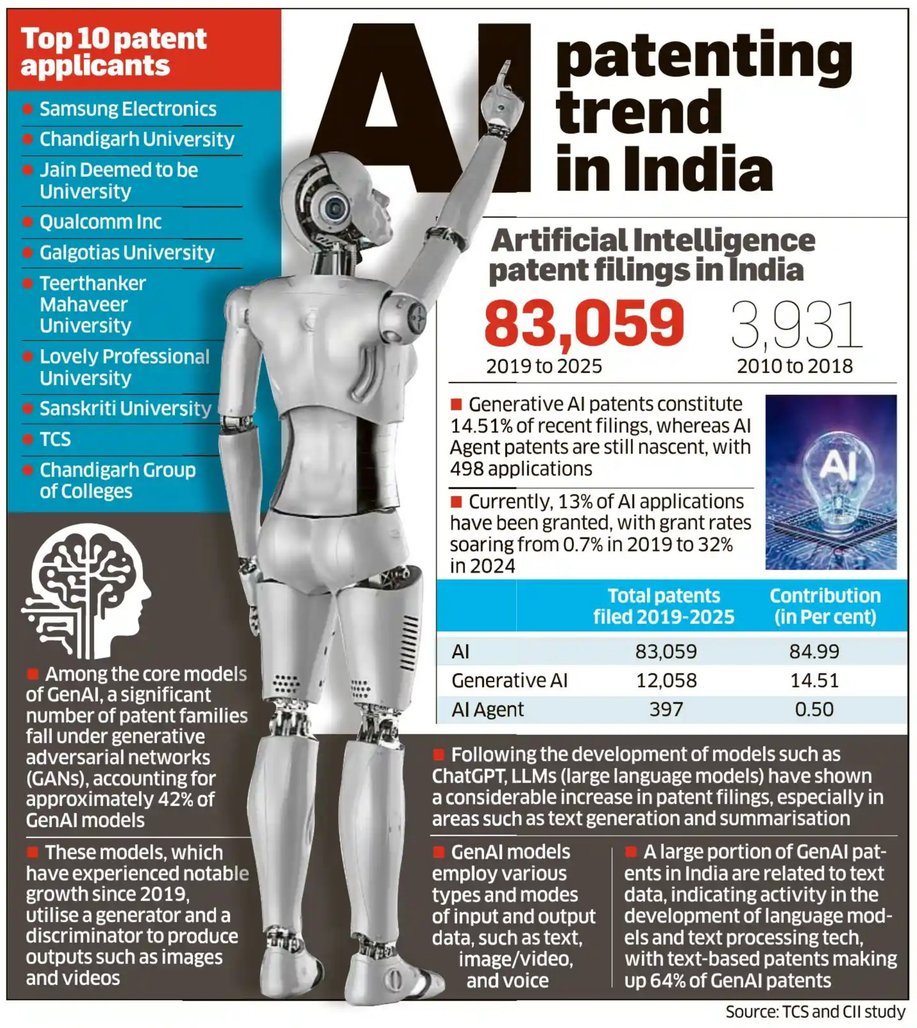
It highlighted how employees often hesitate to experiment, challenge assumptions or lead projects due to fear of backlash, which undermines innovation even when the technology capabilities exist. The report shows that despite major investments in AI, workplace fear – particularly fear of failure – remains one of the biggest barriers to adoption.

More than four out of five respondents have said that psychological safety has a measurable impact on the success of AI initiatives, and 84% report direct links between psychological safety and tangible business outcomes. Importantly, fear is holding leaders back, with 22% of respondents admitting that they have hesitated to lead or suggest an AI project because of fear of failure or potential criticism. Three-quarters (73%) indicated that they feel safe to provide honest feedback and express opinions freely in the workplace.

Infosys CTO Rafee Tarafdar said when employees feel empowered to experiment without fear of failure, innovation thrives. This culture of trust and openness enables teams to unlock the full potential of AI, driving meaningful business outcomes and sustainable growth.

Meanwhile, Standard Chartered's latest report revealed that beyond the hype and promise surrounding emerging technologies, including AI and digital assets, close to seven in 10 corporate leaders are focusing on building strong foundational systems in the short to medium term – notably cloud computing.

It said that corporate leaders in India are particularly optimistic about AI, with 74% ranking it among their top three technology adoption choices, followed by cloud computing (64%) and digital assets (46%).


Top 10 patent applicants
Samsung Electronics
Chandigarh University
Jain Deemed to be University
Qualcomm Inc
Galgotias University
Teerthanker Mahaveer University
Lovely Professional University
Sanskriti University
TCS
Chandigarh Group of Colleges
Among the core models of GenAI, a significant number of patent families fall under generative adversarial networks (GANs), accounting for approximately 42% of GenAI models
These models, which have experienced notable growth since 2019, utilise a generator and a discriminator to produce outputs such as images and videos
AI patenting trend in India
Artificial Intelligence patent filings in India
83,059 2019 to 2025
3,931 2010 to 2018
Generative AI patents constitute 14.51% of recent filings, whereas AI Agent patents are still nascent, with 498 applications
Currently, 13% of AI applications have been granted, with grant rates soaring from 0.7% in 2019 to 32% in 2024
Total patents filed 2019-2025 / Contribution (in Per cent)
AI 83,059 84.99
Generative AI 12,058 14.51
AI Agent 397 0.50
Following the development of models such as ChatGPT, LLMs (large language models) have shown a considerable increase in patent filings, especially in areas such as text generation and summarisation
GenAI models employ various types and modes of input and output data, such as text, image/video, and voice
A large portion of GenAI patents in India are related to text data, indicating activity in the development of language models and text processing tech, with text-based patents making up 64% of GenAI patents
Source: TCS and CII study

Sebi board decides to overhaul MF rules

Move aimed at curbing costs, boosting transparency

MUMBAI, PTI

Markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday approved a comprehensive overhaul of mutual fund regulations, including changes to the expense ratio framework and limits on brokerage charges, to boost transparency.

The proposals are aimed at bringing regulatory clarity, reducing redundancies, and promoting ease of compliance.

In its board meeting, Sebi has cleared a proposal to exclude all statutory levy — STT (Securities Transaction Tax), GST (Goods and Services Tax), CTT (Commodity Transaction Tax) and Stamp duty — from the expense ratio limits along with the present permissible expenses for brokerage, exchange and regulatory fee, its chief Tuhin Kanta Pandey said.

Moreover, this expense ratio limits would be called base expense ratio. Presently, GST on management fees is permitted over and above the TER limit. However, all other statutory charges are part of the overall TER limit specified for MF schemes.

The expense ratio limits are proposed to be exclusive of statutory levy, so that any change in statutory levy in future is passed on to the investors. Also, the board decided to eliminate the additional 5 bps that asset management companies (AMCs) were previously allowed to charge across MF schemes.

Tuhin Kanta Pandey

This additional expense, introduced to offset the impact of crediting exit loads back to schemes, was first set at 20 bps in 2012 and later reduced to 5 bps in 2018. The additional expense of 5 bps that mutual fund schemes were allowed to charge was transitory in nature, Sebi noted.

Accordingly, with the objective of rationalising costs for unitholders, this expense has been decided to be removed. To protect the interest of investors and to ensure that expenses are charged fairly only once to the investors, the brokerage charge has been revised from 12 bps to 6 bps for cash market transactions and 5 bps to 2 bps for derivative transactions to bring clarity and transparency.

Expense ratio

Also, the regulator said a provision enabling expense ratio to be charged based on performance of a scheme has been introduced and the same would be voluntary for AMCs.

Also, Sebi has decided to simplify eligibility norms for fund sponsors, digitising investor communications such as annual reports, and removing outdated provisions like those on capital protection and real estate mutual funds.

Additionally, the regulator has decided to ease compliance by reducing the frequency of mandatory trustee meetings, eliminating newspaper advertisements for scheme changes, replacing them with online disclosures and removing duplicative reporting.

Bringing down debt will be key focus in 2026-27, says FM

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Stressing the need for sustained fiscal discipline to support long-term growth, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said reducing debt-to-GDP ratio would be a priority for the Union Government in the next financial year.

Nirmala Sitharaman

The FM also urged the states to focus on lowering their debt. "The Centre has set clear goals for transparency in budget-making, ensuring that fiscal management is visible to all and meets the highest standards of accountability," Sitharaman said at India Economic Conclave organised by a media-house.

"As a result, we have been able to bring down the debt-to-GDP ratio since the post-Covid period, when it had crossed 60%. It is now on a declining path," she added.

The Centre's debt-to-GDP declined to 57.1% in 2024-25, from a high of 61.4% in 2020-21, as per official data. It is estimated to come down to 56.1% in the current fiscal.

"It is already coming down, but we need to reduce it further, and this will be a core focus in the next financial year," the FM remarked.

Without naming specific states, Sitharaman said the debt level of some states is cause of concern. "Unless the debt-to-GSDP is managed better and kept within the FRBM limits and the stock of debt which is being accumulating over the years with high rate of interest which many states are unable to service, unless even those are brought down, you will be borrowing to service the loans, you will not be borrowing for developmental expenditure. That's a poor play in the fiscal terrain," she said.

According to data presented by the Finance Ministry in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, debt as a ratio of GSDP is estimated to be 35% or more in the current fiscal in at least 11 states.

Insurance Bill gets RS nod

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed the Insurance Amendment Bill that seeks to raise FDI limit in the insurance sector to 100%, from the current 74%.

The Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. Officially named the 'Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025', the Bill is now awaiting the President's assent.

The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with a voice vote, despite the Opposition's demand for referring it to a Parliamentary committee for further scrutiny. The Bill will lead to amendments in three key laws regulating the insurance sector in the country — the Insurance Act, 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. The biggest change will be in the form of allowing higher FDI.

Replying to a debate in Rajya Sabha, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said increasing FDI limit to 100% will pave the way for more foreign companies to enter India, as in many cases, they do not find JV partners.

India may record 7% growth in FY26, says Gita Gopinath

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Indian economy is expected to record around 7% growth in the current fiscal, slightly higher than 6.6% projected by the IMF in October, said Gita Gopinath, former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Speaking at a media event, Gopinath said the IMF made its projection for India's growth before the National Statistical Office (NSO) came out with its July-September quarter growth rate of 8.2%.

Gita Gopinath

"I would say that the IMF number (India's growth projection) was 6.6% that came out in October. But their forecast for the second quarter of the current fiscal, in terms of what the growth would be, was much lower than what it turned out to be at over 8%. Just doing math, I would expect that India's GDP growth would go up close to 7%," she said.

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the GDP growth projection to 7.3% for the current fiscal from its earlier estimate of 6.8%, following robust economic performance in the July-September quarter.

The GDP registered a six-quarter high growth of 8.2% in Q2 of 2025-26, underpinned by resilient domestic demand amidst global trade and policy uncertainties.

The IMF, in October, revised upwards India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.6% compared to its earlier estimate of 6.4% on the back of strong growth, offsetting the impact of US tariffs on Indian shipments.

Gopinath, currently a Gregory and Ania Coffey Professor of Economics at Harvard University, said if India can maintain growth rates of close to 8% for 20 years, then the country will reach much closer to the 2047 goals.

"But it is not easy to maintain even 8% growth for a 20-year period on a sustained basis. That is going to require sustained reforms," she said.

Silver price breaches Rs 2 L/kg mark

NEW DELHI, PTI: Silver prices jumped by Rs 7,300 on Wednesday to breach the record Rs 2 lakh-per-kg mark in the national capital for the first time, driven by strong demand in domestic and global markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The white metal traded at Rs 2,05,800 per kg on Wednesday, against the previous closing level of Rs 1,98,500 per kg.

In the local bullion market, gold prices climbed by Rs 600 to Rs 1,36,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes), compared to the previous close of Rs 1,35,900 per 10 grams.

TCS sets up wholly-owned subsidiary in Bhutan

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tata Consultancy Services Asia Pacific has incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary in Bhutan. The objective is to expand business presence in Southeast Asia, foster technological innovation, and provide high-quality IT solutions, the company said in a BSE filing. The subsidiary will support demand for digital transformation in Bhutan and foster local talent by offering employment and training, it added.

Meanwhile, at the company's Analyst Day, TCS CEO K Krithivasan said, "We will be the world's largest AI-led technology services company." He mentioned that the five pillars of transformation will include future-ready talent model (AI fluency, future-ready skills and new ways of working); and also AI ecosystem play that includes partnerships, M&A and new ventures.

SELF-MADE

With 88 entrepreneurs, B'luru continues to lead as top city for founder residences

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

For the country's self-made entrepreneurs, Bengaluru remains the leading hub as 88 founders reside in the city, including Razorpay's Harshil Mathur, Zerodha's Nikhil Kamath and Groww's Harsh Jain. IDFC FIRST Private Banking and Hurun India on Wednesday released the third edition of IDFC FIRST Private & Hurun India's Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2025.

The list ranks 200 companies headquartered in India based on their market capitalisation for listed companies and valuations for unlisted ones.

The cumulative value of all companies on the list stood at Rs 42 lakh crore ($469 billion) in 2025, up from Rs 36 lakh crore ($431 billion) last year, a 15% growth.

Bengaluru also retains its position as the country's top startup hub, with 52 companies, down by 14 from last year. With 41 companies, Mumbai ranks second, followed by Gurugram with 36 companies.

While Gurugram-based food delivery platform Eternal's founder Deepinder Goyal tops the list for the first time with a valuation of Rs 3.2 lakh crore, a 27% increase from last year, Bengaluru-headquartered Swiggy's co-founders Sriharsha Majety and Nandan Reddy hold the fifth spot with a valuation of Rs 1.06 lakh crore, a 5% increase from last year. Swiggy operates in over 680 cities across the country.

The top-10 youngest self-made entrepreneurs (under 32), also include Bengaluru-based ShareChat's Ankush Sachdeva, Slice's Rajan Bajaj, and TruAlt Bioenergy Viraj Nirani.

The list also features a cohort of veteran founders, and Ashok Soota (82 years) of Happiest Minds Technologies tops the list, followed by Star Health and Allied Insurance Company founder V Jagannathan (80). Dr Devi Prasad Shetty (72) of Narayana Hrudayalaya is also featured among the top 10.

Women entrepreneurs are making significant strides in building some of the most valuable businesses, and 20 women are featured in the list. With a company valuation of Rs 67,500 crore, Falguni Nayar and Adwaita Nayar of Nykaa lead the list. ACKO General Insurance (valuation of Rs 13,300 crore) Founder Ruchi Deepak, Amagi's Srividhya Srinivasan (Rs 13,300 crore) and Hasura's Rajoshi Ghosh (Rs 8,900 crore) are also featured among the top 10.

Also, InterGlobe Aviation co-founders Rahul Bhatia and Rakesh Gangwal enter the top-3 this year, with a valuation of Rs 2.2 lakh crore. InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo, dominates the country's aviation market with over 65% domestic market share.

Hurun India Founder and Chief Researcher Anas Rahman Junaid said five companies founded post-2020 are now collectively valued at Rs 78,000 crore. "These entrepreneurs are driving growth and contributing to nation-building, with employee benefits increasing from Rs 54,000 crore to Rs 57,200 crore this year, reflecting their investment in people," he added.

A performance of faith

Yakshagana artistes, who are part of various Harake Melas affiliated with the Kateel Shri Durgaparameshwari temple, collectively perform during the initiation of this year's tour. PHOTOS BY FAKRUDDIN H

Harake Yakshagana Melas in coastal Karnataka keep centuries-old art form alive and train the next generation of artistes, writes Manjunath Hegde Bomnalli

In the coastal districts of Karnataka, Harake Yakshagana Bayalata troupes follow a performance tradition unlike any other. Their calendars are often filled years, and sometimes decades, in advance.

Yakshagana Bayalata Harake Seve, the centuries-old practice of hosting Yakshagana performances to fulfil a vow or promise, has seen unprecedented demand in recent years. Though the origin of the practice is unclear, devotees seek not only spiritual fulfillment through these shows but also a deep connection with an art form rooted in the region's culture. Consequently, popular Tenkuthittu and Badaguthittu Harake Melas (troupes) now face long waiting lists, with patrons eager for an opportunity to host a performance (or an *aata*).

For many devotees, securing a slot for such a performance can mean waiting 10 to 20 years, with fresh bookings arriving year after year.

Artistes perform as part of Harake Aata at Gundabala in Uttara Kannada district.

Artistes tie anklets before the Harake Yakshagana tour.

To meet this rising demand, several prominent temples maintain multiple troupes that tour villages and towns from November to May, performing episodes drawn from mythology. These shows, free for the public, usually begin after dusk and continue late into the night, drawing large audiences from nearby places.

Among the sought-after troupes is the Mandarthi Shree Durgaparameshwari Dashavatara Yakshagana Mela in Udupi district. With five troupes and around 225 artistes and support team members, its bookings extend until 2045–46. "People organise performances when their wishes are fulfilled," says Dhananjay Shetty of the temple trust. Two troupes perform regularly at the temple from June to November, and the performance charge is Rs 32,000 per show.

The Kateel Sri Durgaparameshwari Prasadita Dashavatara Yakshagana Mandali in Dakshina Kannada district has also grown to meet the rising demand, recently adding a seventh troupe. Despite staging around 1,260 shows annually, the mela still faces a backlog of around 10 years. According to temple trustee Harinarayan Asranna, *Devi Mahatme* is the most sought-after episode. The performance charge for a show is Rs 80,000.

The Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Krupaposhita Yakshagana Mandali, a major Harake Mela from Dakshina Kannada, tours districts across Karnataka and in Kerala's Kasaragod, staging about 190 shows annually. "Around 2,000 shows are already booked, which will take the next 10 years to clear," said manager Girish Hegde.

In Udupi, the Shri Brahmalingeshwara Dashavatara Yakshagana Mandali at Maranakatte operates three troupes and has a backlog of nearly 7,000 shows. With 132 artistes, the troupe charges Rs 49,000 per performance, even as new bookings continue to arrive.

Murali Kadekar, honorary secretary of Udupi-based Yakshagana Kalaranga, points out that the Harake Mela tradition not only sustains the art form but also provides livelihoods for thousands of artistes and supporting workers. "Currently, there are over 30 Harake Melas in the region, both large and small, and their numbers continue to grow. Even tent melas, which usually present Yakshagana shows commercially, are now taking up Harake Aatas based on bookings," he explains.

Nurturing next gen artistes

These troupes play a vital role in nurturing Yakshagana artistes as well. Shri Mukhyaprana Parasadita Yakshagana Mandali at Gundabala in Uttara Kannada district, for instance, has produced stalwarts like Chittani Ramachandra Hegde and Jalavalli Venkatesh Rao.

"This mela does not tour but stages performances on the temple premises for around 145 days a year. Back in 2003, when shows for 12 years were pending, we introduced two performances every night. Even now, the backlog extends for the next eight years," says the *mela* manager Prabhakar Chittani.

Yakshagana scholar M Prabhakar Joshi notes that the surge in demand for Harake Melas reflects not only devotion but also improved socio-economic conditions and greater access to cultural engagement in the coastal districts.

Joshi emphasises the role of the community in preserving this living theatre. "Temples, artistes and audiences all share the responsibility of cultivating appreciation for Yakshagana. Experimentation should remain within the framework of the art form, with efforts focused on elevating it rather than compromising its integrity or authenticity," he adds.

In search of the lost inscriptions of Sankenhalli

Kirti Malhotra describes how a century-old reference led to the rediscovery of forgotten hero stones in Tumakuru

While reading a speech that T Ananda Row, then Dewan of Mysore, delivered on October 15, 1910, I learnt that some of the most interesting inscriptions are found on the old Viragals (Viragallu) dating back to the 8th and 9th centuries, found at Hirigundagal and Sankenhalli in Tumkur (now Tumakuru) taluk. These inscriptions provide valuable historical information and were described as "new inscriptions" as they were not mentioned in Epigraphia Carnatica (EC) Vol12 (1904).

Curious, I searched for the text of these inscriptions in EC16 (1955) and EC24 (2009) but found no mention of 8th or 9th century inscriptions at Sankenhalli. I wondered if these inscriptions were lost after their initial discovery in 1910.

Determined, I set out to explore Sankenhalli village but could not find it in the list of villages under Tumakuru taluk. Upon alighting at Tumakuru bus stand, I inquired locally and was told it is near Urdigere village. Boarding a private bus via Kyathasandra, I reached Urdigere, where an elderly resident directed me to go beyond Eleramapura village. On the way, near Renukeshwara temple, it began to rain and darkness was falling. Still, I kept walking towards Sankenhalli. A gentleman on the road recalled seeing two large stone slabs and pointed me toward a nearby grove. I reached the spot in the dark and found a pair of massive hero stones.

I knew I needed to revisit. This time, my young friend Anupam Baidya accompanied me. Although we reached Sankenhalli, I could not recall the exact location of the stones. When I inquired, an elderly lady told a young boy to show me the ruins of a small *mantapa*, which had once housed a Viragal. I recognised immediately that it was not the Viragal I had seen earlier.

Following the young boy, who was aided by a villager named Raju, we found a pit with a few broken pillars scattered among weeds and shrubs. As I cleared the vegetation, the edge of a stone slab became visible. Carefully removing the mud, the face of a hero slowly emerged. The 3 X 5 feet slab featured a beautiful carving of a hero on horseback, with a Sati behind him. A man holding a parasol indicated that the hero was a ruler or an important general.

Although thrilled to discover this buried Viragal, I was still looking for the two Viragals standing side by side. When I described them, Raju led us there. I was elated to see the two Viragals with all their details in broad daylight.

The left Viragal, broken at the top, had a broader bottom panel depicting a majestic figure of the hero on horseback with a vanquished enemy at his feet. Only part of the inscription in the broken top panel was visible.

The right Viragal, standing in a slanted position, was seven feet high and tapered toward the top. It had three panels. The wide bottom panel again depicted the hero on horseback, with a man holding a parasol behind him. The inscription began at the top with three lines and wrapped around the panels as it flowed downward.

Back home, I searched the annual reports of the Mysore Archaeological Survey (MAS). In MAS 1910, I found the first three lines of an inscription on a Viragal at Sankenhalli. It read: "*svasti sri-Sivamara maharajar prituvi-rajyam-geye Balavemmarasara kalegadol eridu*". To my delight, five pages later was an estampage of these three lines engraved on the hero stone, showing the same tapering top I had observed on the right Viragal with inscription. The letters matched perfectly with the photographs we had taken.

According to MAS, the inscription states that "when Sivamara was ruling the earth, someone fought and fell in the war with Balavemmarasa and that Permanadigal (the king) granted some land."

The other hero stone, with a broken top portion, refers to the same reign and states that "in the war with Balavemmarasa, Biriyama attacked the hostile army and fell." The MAS also notes that "Balavemmarasa of these records is no doubt identical with Balavarma of the Chalukya family mentioned in the Kadaba plates of 812 AD."

I was happy to re-discover the 9th century inscriptions after 115 years, at Sankenhalli, which now falls under Koratagere taluk.

Figures of hero and Sati emerging from a buried Viragal at Sankenhalli in Tumakuru district. PHOTO BY ANUPAM BAIDYA

A 9th-century Viragal with inscription. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

A century of coffee science at Balehonnuru

Poornima Kanahalli traces the Central Coffee Research Institute's hundred-year journey in transforming traditional plantations into resilient ecosystems

Nestled amid the misty peaks of Chikkamagaluru and the valleys of Kodagu, the Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) at Balehonnuru has quietly shaped the course of Indian coffee for a century. By applying science and sustained research, the institute helped fragile plantations, once vulnerable to pests and price shocks, evolve into a globally recognised, resilient and sustainability-focused industry.

Here, flowers, cherries, foliage and soil form a living laboratory where science and nature work together to produce a great cup of coffee, one that sustains livelihoods and carries culture and legacy. Legend has it that coffee first arrived in India in the 17th century, when Baba Budan sowed seven sacred seeds in the hills of Chikkamagaluru. Over the centuries, cultivation spread across the lush slopes of the Western Ghats. By the 19th century, organised plantations under British rule brought both opportunity and risk, exposing coffee to pests, diseases and fluctuating yields, and making scientific intervention not just helpful, but essential.

Recognising this need, the Mysore Government, under the reign of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, established the Mysore Coffee Experimental Station at Balehonnuru in 1925, led by Dr L C Coleman, then joint director of agriculture. Its mission was simple yet ambitious: develop disease-resistant varieties and scientific pest management techniques. What began as a modest research station soon became the nerve centre of Indian coffee science. The 1940s tested this resolve. World War II disrupted trade, prices collapsed and plantations faced severe pest and disease pressures. In response, the Coffee Act was enacted, and the Coffee Board of India was formed in 1946, elevating Balehonnuru station to national status as the Central Coffee Research Institute and marking the dawn of science-led coffee development.

Today, CCRI has substations at Chettalli (Kodagu) and regional research stations in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Assam, developing technologies that respond to India's diverse coffee-growing conditions. Research at CCRI spans plant breeding and genetics, agronomy, soil science, plant physiology, pathology, entomology, biotechnology, tissue culture and post-harvest technology, each contributing to productivity, quality and sustainability of coffee.

Spread over 134 hectares, CCRI houses modern laboratories, experimental farms, demonstration plots, quality evaluation units, a library of rare coffee literature and a national gene bank that preserves hundreds of wild coffee species and developed varieties. Over 112 scientists continue to push the boundaries of knowledge, transforming research into practical solutions for growers.

Among CCRI's lasting contributions is systematic breeding and multi-location trials, which have resulted in the institute releasing 13 arabica selections along with several robusta varieties and hybrids. These varieties offer higher yields, resistance to leaf rust and wilt, improved cup quality and better adaptability to climate challenges, enhancing farmer resilience and income. Advanced facilities like the Flux Tower and FASAL Tower monitor microclimate, carbon exchange and weather parameters, providing insights for climate-resilient coffee farming.

The Central Coffee Research Institute at Balehonnuru in Chikkamagaluru district is set to mark its centenary with celebrations planned from December 20-22; Students undergo training at the institute. PHOTOS/ CCRI

Impact beyond laboratory

CCRI's impact extends far beyond the laboratory. Growers have access to quality seeds, biocontrol agents, soil and leaf analysis, training programmes, field demonstrations and consultancy.

Senthilkumar, Director of Research at CCRI, highlights that the institute's focus on climate-resilient varieties and precision farming has positioned India as a premium global coffee origin.

Coffee Board of India Chairman M J Dinesh says that the board aims to produce five lakh tonnes of coffee, with a growing share of specialty grades backed by sustainability standards.

Appreciating CCRI's contribution, K N Subrahmanya, a farmer leader, said that CCRI's farmer-centric research is essential to sustain livelihoods amidst climate change and global competition. He said the key challenge lies in developing region-specific, drought-tolerant, high-performance coffee varieties.

From producing 10,000 tonnes in its early years to over 3.6 lakh tonnes today, India's coffee story is deeply intertwined with CCRI's journey. As the institute marks its centenary, its legacy continues to nurture the land, support growers, and delight coffee lovers around the world.

IN BRIEF

Uthappa scores hat-trick

▸ Siddanth Uthappa scored a hat-trick in BCYA B's emphatic 5-2 win over Kaveri Sports Club in the recent round of matches of the KSHA C Division Hockey League Championship on Wednesday, reports DHNS.

Results: BCYA B: 5 (Karan 8th, 43rd; Siddanth Uthappa 33rd, 39th, 41st) bt Kaveri SC: 2 (Rithesh 13th, Kuttappa 26th); Germanite Hockey Academy: 4 (Naeem 10th, 44th; Arun 37th; David 47th) bt Bengaluru Blues H.C B: 0.

Alcaraz splits with coach

▸ Men's tennis world No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz announced on Wednesday he is splitting from his coach Juan Carlos Ferrero after seven hugely successful years together, reports AFP from Paris.

Alcaraz has won six Grand Slams among his 24 tour level titles under the guidance of fellow Spaniad Ferrero, including this year's French and US Opens.

SLC appoints Sridhar

▸ Sri Lanka Cricket on Wednesday appointed former India fielding coach R Sridhar in a similar role with their national side until the end of the T20 World Cup, to be held in February-March next year.

Sridhar's appointment will be effective from December 11 to March 10, 2026, a period which also includes the national team's assignments against Pakistan and England followed by the T20 World Cup.

FIFA slashes ticket prices

▸ FIFA slashed the price of some World Cup tickets for teams' most loyal fans following a global backlash and some will get USD 60 seats for the final instead of being asked to pay USD 4,185, reports AP from Geneva.

FIFA said $60 tickets will be made available for every game in North America, going to the national federations whose teams are playing. Those federations decide how to distribute them to loyal fans who have attended previous games.

From Baramulla to big bucks: Auqib payday lights up Kashmir

Pacer rewarded with Rs 8.40 cr IPL deal for years of grind in domestic cricket

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

For years, Auqib Nabi Dar had trained himself to expect nothing from the Indian Premier League (IPL) auction. On Tuesday, that hard-earned pragmatism met its opposite — a life-altering reward. The 29-year-old Jammu and Kashmir pacer, born in Baramulla, emerged as one of the most expensive Indian buys at the Mini-auction in Abu Dhabi with Delhi Capitals snapping him up for a staggering Rs 8.40 crore.

Nabi had entered the auction in the all-rounders' category with a modest base price of Rs 30 lakh. Few outside domestic cricket circles saw the bidding war coming. Fewer still would have predicted the scale of it. Yet, for those who have tracked his steady rise across formats this season, the outcome felt less like an anomaly and more like overdue recognition.

Four days before the auction, Nabi told Cricinfo that he was trying not to read too much into the buzz around his name.

Auqib Nabi's IPL deal with Delhi Capitals was a just reward for the hard-working domestic veteran. PTI

"It feels different, but I'm not able to point a finger to any one specific reason," he said. "Finally that moment is here... but you can't tell anything. If it doesn't happen, it's fine. I'm used to it. I'll work even harder."

It was a familiar refrain for players living on the fringes of the IPL dream — cautious, grounded and realistic. Still, he allowed himself one concession: "This year... there's some excitement."

That excitement spilled across Kashmir's cricketing community within minutes of the announcement. Former players, coaches and fans hailed the deal as a breakthrough moment for the Valley, calling it a validation of Kashmir's untapped cricketing talent. Social media was flooded with congratulatory messages, many describing Nabi's journey as an inspiration for young cricketers in the Valley who toil far from the spotlight.

Nabi's credentials are built on volume and consistency rather than hype. He has featured in 36 first-class matches, 29 List A games and 34 T20s, steadily honing his skills across formats. His big payday follows a standout year in domestic cricket, where he impressed in the Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy and the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, catching the attention of scouts with his pace, control and growing all-round value.

Kashmir has seen IPL representation before. Players such as Parvez Rasool, Abdul Samad, Umran Malik, Rasikh Salam, Yudhvir Singh, Mohammad Mudhasir and Manzoor Pandav have been picked by various franchises over the years. While some enjoyed extended runs on the field, others gained limited game time but benefited from exposure to elite training environments.

Auqib Nabi's Rs 8.40 crore deal, however, stands out — not just for the money involved, but for what it signals. For a cricketer who learned to expect nothing, Tuesday delivered everything.

B R Gaurav (left) and Tanishka Kalbhairav pose with their spoils.

Tanishka, Gaurav reign supreme

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tanishka Kapil Kalbhairav defeated Himanshi Chowdhary 4-1 (11-7, 11-6, 4-11, 11-8, 11-7) to win the girls under-19 singles title in the CVL Shashtry Memorial Karnataka State Table Tennis Championship at the Canara Union Courts on Wednesday.

B R Gaurav won the corresponding boys' title after staging a brilliant comeback. His rival Varun Kashyap won the first two sets quite comfortably 2-11 and 7-11 but there after it was Gaurav all the way as the youngster reeled off four sets in a row (11-4, 11-8, 11-7, 11-9) for 4-2 victory.

Results (U-19 girls' final): Tanishka Kalbhairav bt Himanshi Chowdhary 11-7, 11-6, 4-11, 11-8, 11-7.
Semifinals: Himanshi bt Hiya Singh 11-9, 11-7, 11-2; Tanishka bt Raashi V Rao 11-8, 9-11, 11-4, 11-8.
U-19 boys' final: B R Gaurav bt Varun Kashyap 2-11, 7-11, 11-4, 11-8, 11-7, 11-9.
Semifinals: Gaurav bt Abhinav Murthy 11-5, 6-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-6; Varun Kashyap bt Aarnav N 11-4, 11-6, 9-11, 6-11, 11-9.

BADMINTON WORLD TOUR FINALS

Satwik-Chirag open with gritty victory

Indian duo rally from a game down to beat fancied Chinese pair

HANGZHOU, PTI

Star Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty showed nerves of steel to stun Olympic silver medallists Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang in their opening Group B match at the BWF World Tour Finals here on Wednesday.

India's Chirag Shetty (right) and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy began with a win in the group stage of the BWF World Tour Finals on Wednesday. AFP FILE PHOTO

World No. 3 Satwik and Chirag, the only Indian representatives at the season-ending showpiece, recovered from an opening-game setback and saved a match point to eventually outwit the world No. 5 Chinese pair 12-21, 22-20, 21-14 in a gripping men's doubles contest.

"In the first game we didn't start off that well. Credit to them actually, they kept putting a lot of pressure on us and didn't really let us get into the game. But I think in the second game onwards we knew we wanted to start on a good note, be as aggressive as possible and that's what we did," Chirag said.

The Asian Games champions, who reached the finals at the Hong Kong Open and China Masters earlier this year, will face another stern test when they take on Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri on Thursday.

Former world No. 1 pair Satwik and Chirag came into the match trailing Liang and Wang 3-7 in head-to-head record, and Wednesday's clash lived up to its billing as a high-quality duel between two attacking pairs. As expected, Satwik and Chirag attempted to use angles and impose a sharp, fast-paced game, but the Chinese were equally prepared, with early errors from both sides keeping the opening game level at 7-7.

Short rallies marked the first game, built around attacking drives and quick smashes, with lifts used sparingly. China then strung together four straight points to take control at the interval. Wang's sharp interceptions at the net began to trouble the Indians, who also committed a few errors as the Chinese stretched the lead to 14-9.

The ability to bring the shuttle down at awkward angles paid dividends for the Chinese as they surged to a 19-11 lead, Liang finishing one rally with a fierce smash. The local favourites grabbed eight game points and wrapped up the opener in 13 minutes.

Dhruv, Manikanth half-centuries give Karnataka solid footing

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka top-order batters Dhruv Krishnan and Manikanth Shivanand scored half-centuries against Maharashtra on Day 2 to push their side towards a first innings lead in the Elite Group C match of the Cooch Behar Trophy on Wednesday.

Karnataka were 252/5 at stumps, trailing by 52 runs, in response to Maharashtra's 304 all out after resuming at 258/8. Manikanth (71) and opener Dhruv (59) forged a 75-run stand for the second wicket before the latter's dismissal by Suashik Jagtap (2/72).

Skipper Anvay Dravid (38) ensured the momentum wasn't squandered as he kept the scoreboard ticking with another stand of 66 runs with Manikanth. The duo, however, fell in quick succession in the post-tea session.

Brief scores: Maharashtra: (O/n: 258/8): 304 all out in 94.2 overs (Samkit Surana 31, Sai Paradeshi 48, Arqam Syed 68, Aneesh Joshi 58, Harshil Sawant 25; Vaibhav Sharma 5-77, Akshath Prabhakar 2-46, Manikanth Shivanand 2-13) vs Karnataka: 252/5 in 78 overs (Dhruv Krishnan 59, Manikanth Shivanand 71, Anvay Dravid 38, Varun Patel 34 n.o.; Suashik Jagtap 2-72).

Burns swapped for Madsen

ROME, PTI: Former Australia batter Joe Burns, who led Italy to its first-ever T20 World Cup qualification, will be omitted from the European nation's squad for the showpiece in India due to availability issues that came in the way of a contract between him and the Italian Cricket Federation.

India leads doping positivity charts

NEW DELHI, PTI

There seems no end in sight to India's doping woes with the country throwing up the highest number of violators among nations which conducted 5,000 or more tests in the World Anti-Doping Agency's Testing Figures Report for 2024.

As per the WADA report, India conducted 7113 tests (6576 urine samples and 537 blood samples) last year, which threw up 260 adverse analytical findings, accounting for a positivity rate of 3.6 per cent, the highest among all major countries.

India's poor doping record would be among the major concerns when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) evaluates its bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games in near future.

"...this position may appear concerning at both national and international levels, it is essential to underscore that the figures are a direct outcome of India's intensified anti-doping efforts, marked by expanded testing and stronger detection mechanisms rather than a surge in doping prevalence," stated a note from the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) as it sought to explain the continued high rate of positivity.

In the 2023 testing figures, India's positivity rate stood at 3.8 per cent after 213 adverse results from 5606 tests.

China, which conducted a whopping 24,214 tests in 2024, showed a positivity rate of just 0.2 per cent. The USA did a lesser number of tests than India, (6592), and had a positivity rate of 1.1 per cent.

Russia, which has been ostracised globally for its failure to tackle doping, conducted 10,514 tests and returned a positivity rate of 0.7 per cent with just 76 adverse results.

A few countries like Pakistan and Mongolia have higher positivity rates than India but they tested very less samples.

In 2025, NADA said it has so far conducted 7068 tests with a positivity rate of 1.5 per cent after a relatively lower adverse results count of 110. In comparative analysis, the numbers released for 2024 indicate a marginal improvement in the positivity rate but overall, it remains too high and keeps India at the pinnacle of a list no country would want to be seen in.

"In recent years, India has witnessed a significant strengthening of its anti-doping framework. To tackle the menace of doping in sports NADA India has not only increased the number of tests but also has increased the emphasis on education and awareness," NADA stated.

"The available data reflects that the overall anti-doping ecosystem is becoming more robust, with improvements visible across testing, awareness, and preventive mechanisms."

INDIA'S DOPING SHAME

Country	Tests conducted	Positivity rate (%)
India	7113	3.65
US	6081	1.1
Russia	10514	0.7
China	24214	0.2

2023 3.8% India's positivity rate stood at 3.8% with 213 adverse analytical findings (AAFs) out of 5606 tests.

2025 1.5% India have conducted 7068 tests with 110 AAFs and a positivity rate of 1.5% which is a big improvement over the last two years.

Revive down Young Blues

BENGALURU, DHNS: Revive FC registered a 3-1 win over Young Blues Elite FC in a Group B match of the BDFA B Division League at the Bengaluru Football Stadium on Wednesday.

Athul Jose Benny starred for Revive as he scored twice in the space of two minutes (75th, 77th), including a goal from the spot for his second, to seal the deal.

The first half was largely even before Revive took the lead in stoppage time when MD Faasil struck in the 40+2nd minute.

The upcoming rounds of BDFA A and B Division matches will be postponed from December 18 to 24 due to the Santosh Trophy qualifying rounds being held at the same venue.

Results: Group B: Revive FC: 3 (MD Faasil 40+2; Athul Jose Benny 75th, 77th pen) bt Young Blues Elite FC: 1 (Maadav Vivek 62nd).

FC Mangalore: 3 (Hafis P A 25th, Afreed Mon 31st, Mohammad Fawas K 53rd) bt Shooterz FC: 2 (Mutum Rishikanta Singh 38th, Muhammad Anshad M 80+1).

KSP FC: 2 (Nitish K 4th, Prathap Chandan 9th) bt William FC: 1 (John V 64th pen).

Pluto for Star Superior Cup

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Deepesh Narredu-trained Pluto, to be ridden by Vishal Bunde, appeals the most in a small field of seven runners for the Star Superior Cup, the feature event of the races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs here on Thursday.

First race starts at 1.30 pm.

1. Amalita Handicap - 1600M: Made In Heaven 1, Dubai Prince 2, Machiato 3.
2. Aladancer Handicap - 1200M: Cashaban 1, Diamond Gold 2, Hermes 3.
3. Bountiful Treasure Handicap - 1100M: Val D'Aran 1, Star Concept 2, Outlander 3.
4. Star Superior Cup - 1200M: Pluto 1, Knotty Blush 2, Black Eagle 3.
5. Miss X O Lence Handicap - 1400M: This Is Gold 1, Clever Hans 2, Oh My Darling 3.
6. Spats Colombo Handicap - 1400M: Cortado 1, Queen Of Mafia 2, The Presence 3.
Day's best: This Is Gold.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **I treble**: 1, 2 & 3. **II treble**: 4, 5 & 6.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

3rd Ashes: Australia vs England **(day 2, 5 am). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar**.

3rd Test: New Zealand vs West Indies **(day 2, 3:30 am, Friday). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5, FanCode**.

SMAT: Haryana vs Jharkhand **(Final, 4:30 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports 3, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

Conference League: AEK Larnaca vs KF Shkendija, Crystal Palace vs. Kuopion Palloseura, Mainz vs Samsunspor, NK Celje vs Shelbourne **(all 1:30 am, Friday). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

TENNIS

World Tennis League: Eagles vs Hawks **(3 pm)**, Falcons vs Kites **(6 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5, FanCode**.

BADMINTON

World Tour Finals: Group Stage **(7 am). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar**.

Anantjeet, Darshna clinch mixed team skeet gold

NEW DELHI, PTI: Asian champion shooters Anantjeet Singh Naruka **(in pic)** and Darshna Rathore produced a consistent performance to win the Senior Skeet Mixed Team gold medal at the 68th National Shooting Championship Competitions (Shotgun) here on Wednesday.

The Rajasthan duo defeated Uttar Pradesh pair of Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Areeba Khan 45-43 in a closely contested gold medal match to seal the title, at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range here.

Anantjeet hit 21 targets and Darshna contributed 24 to hold off Mairaj (21) and Areeba (22) in the gold medal match.

Earlier in the day, Rajasthan topped the qualification standings with 143 hits as Anantjeet shot 73 and Darshna added 70, securing a direct berth in the gold medal match. Uttar Pradesh booked their place in the final after edging past Haryana in a shootout during qualification. The pairing of Mairaj (74) and Areeba (68) was tied with Haryana on 142, before prevailing 4-3 in the shootout.

Haryana's team of Raiza Dhillon (72) with 21 hits and Ishaan Singh Libra (70) with 20 hits subsequently went on to secure the bronze medal, defeating MP 41–39 in the third-place match.

The Madhya Pradesh duo of Rituraj Bundela (20) and Mansi Raghuwanshi (19) finished fourth.

In the Junior Skeet Mixed Team event, the Telangana pairing of Yuvek Battula and Lakku Venkat Lakshmi contributed 19 hits each to secure the title.

MP fought hard with Jyotiraditya Sisodiya hitting 17.

Jeevith makes it to semifinal

BENGALURU, DHNS: Jeevith, seeded second, entered the semifinals following his win over Adhidan 6-2, 6-1 in the CRS Trust AITA Under 16 Championship Series Tennis Tournament here on Wednesday.

Tanish Dansari, however, endured a tough quarterfinal against Tanay Babu Pai, who fought back from a set down to eventually lose 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 victor.

In the girls' singles quarterfinals, top seed Aniska Jha beat sixth seed Kushi Budhya 6-3, 6-4, while fifth seed Preethi P of Karnataka caused an upset, beating third seed and state-mate Veena Shivaraman 6-3, 6-4 to reach semifinals.

LOCAL TENNIS

Results (Boys' singles): Naman Saraf bt Joshua Samuel 6-2, 6-0; Jeevit Satish bt Adhidan 6-2, 6-1; Dhanvin Venkatesh K bt Mahin Zaveri 6-4, 6-2; Tanish Dansari bt Tanay Babu Pai 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

Doubles: Satish J/ Ayush Kotian bt Fath Ali/ Avaneesh D 6-0, 6-1; Geervaan/ Akhil bt Aditya/ Prana Kartick W/O; Arjun Pandian/ Joshua Samuel bt Vachan P/ Ahaan Vikram 7-5, 6-2; Naman S/ Zaveri M bt Manoj S / Santo Babu 6-0, 6-3.

Girls singles: Yahana Arora bt Priyal Saraf 6-2, 6-1; Sahasra Jayanth bt Sharvi Gaulat 6-2, 6-1; Preethi P bt Veena Shivaraman 6-3, 6-4; Aniska Jha bt Kushi Budhya 6-3, 6-4.

Doubles: Akriti/ Sahara bt Harshika/ Ovi 6-2, 6-2; Bhavika/ Spica bt Raina/ Nita 6-4, 6-4.

Rachika, Liyanka tear down Bihar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rachita Hatwar and Liyanka Shetty's 117-run partnership helped Karnataka coast to a nine-wicket win over Bihar, pushing them to a three-match winning streak in Elite Group D of the Women's U-19 One-day Trophy in Hyderabad.

Chasing a 118-run target, Karnataka completed the task in 16.1 overs, having run a tight game in the first half of the contest when they restricted Bihar to 117 all out in 40.2 overs. Veda Varshini's 3/17 spell choked Bihar batters for runs. Karnataka's chase was smooth with Rachita (59) and Liyanka (56) producing well-made half-centuries.

Brief scores: Bihar: 117 in 40.2 overs (Akshara Gupta 29, Siddhi Kumari 31; Harini N 2-24, Kashvi Kandikuppa 2-14, Veda Varshini V 3-17) lt to Karnataka 121/1 in 16.1 overs (Rachita Hatwar 59, Liyanka Shetty 56).

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowment Department
Office of the Executive Officer
Sri Venugopala Krishna Swamy Temple and Group of Temples
Malleswaram, Bangalore. Phone No: 080-23313339 Email: samuhadevalya12@gmail.com
NO: E.O.A/CR-134/2012-13 Date: 18.12.2025

Notification

An e-tender re-announcement (Call-4) has been issued for the lease of the building and land measuring 504 square meters at 16th Cross, belonging to Sri Kadu Malleshwara Swamy Temple, Malleshwaram, Bangalore City, under Rule 30 of the Karnataka Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowments Rules, 2002. Interested parties may submit their applications by paying the application fee as per the e-procurement portal from **18.12.2025** by downloading the applications through e-procurement at **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and submitting them till **5.30 PM on 03.01.2026.** For more information. please call the office at 080-23313339, mobile number: 9449663125, or visit the office.

Sd/-
Executive Officer
Sri Kadu Malleshwara Swamy Temple,

DIPR/CP/4471/SSC/2025-26

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal only)
No.: SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(02)/25-26/4228-29
Date: 16.12.2025

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/Circle(South)/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15, Call-10, Dated 01.10.2024** for increasing the Vertical Clearance by Providing intermediate tower in existing corridor of 66kV DG-3 & DG-4 D/C Lines between Tower number 70 & 72 by providing 1 no. of new proposed 110kV DA+3, NBT, KPTCL Design Tower near Hirandanahalli Lake in TLM Sub-Division, Hoody, Bengaluru, in the Tr(Op) Circle-South, Bengaluru.

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **18.12.2025.** Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Ele.),
Transmission (Operation) Circle-South, KPTCL,
Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 560009.

Government of Karnataka
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYAT
1st Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bengaluru-560070.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬೆಂನಜಿಪಂ/ಪಿಡಿ–2NRLM/11/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.12.2025

Annexure 1

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನದ ಎನ್ಆರ್ಎಲ್ಎಮ್,ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಅಭಿಯಾನ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಘಟಕದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು, M/s Sharp Watch Investigation Security Service Pvt Ltd., No.17/7, 1st Floor, 5th Main, 8th Cross, Kamakshi Hospital Road, Mysore-570002. ಮೂಲಕ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ.

1) **Position:** District Manager Skills & Financial Inclusion. **Location:** District Mission Management Unit at District. **Qualification:** Full time PG in MBA - Finance/M Com or Equivalent disipline. **Experiance:** Minimum 5 Years of Experience in relevant Field **Remuneration:** Rs.30000/-Per Month. **Age:** Below 45 Years. **No of Post:** 1

2) **Position:**District Manager-Livelihood. **Location:**District Mission Management Unit at District. **Qualification**:M.Sc.(Agri)and allied sciences of farm sector with minimum 07 years of field level work experience in relevant field or B.Sc. (Agri)allied sciences of farm sector with minimum Of years of field level work experience in relevant field.**Experiance:** 7+ Years of Experience in relevant field.**Remuneration** Rs.30000/-Per Month. **Age** Below 45 Years. **No of Post** -1

3) **Position:**District MIS Assistant Cum DEO . **Location:**District Mission Management Unit at District. **Qualification**: Graduation. **Experiance:** 3 Years Post qualification relevant experience.Reading,writing (including typing)& speking skill in Kannada & English Knowledge of working with Computer. **Remuneration** Rs 20500/-Per Month.**Age** Below 45 Years . **No of Post** -1

4) **Position:** Office Assistant. **Location:**District Mission Management Unit at District. **Qualification**:Any Graduation.**Experiance:** 3 Years of Experience in relevant Field **Remuneration** Rs.20000/-Per Month. **Age** Below 45 Years **No of Post**-1

5) **Position:**Taluka Programme Manager. **Location:**Taluk Mission Management Unit at Taluk (Bengaluru East, North and South)**Qualification**:Full time Post Graduate Degree(2Years)/PG Diploma. **Experiance:** Minimum 5 Years Post qualification relevant experience shall be given to the candidates with minimum 1 years experience as a taluk mission manager or 2 years as cluster supervision. Reading, writing(including typing)& speking skill in Kannada & English Knowledge of working with Computer. **Remuneration** Rs.28000/-Per Month.**Age** Below 45 Years . **No of Post**-3

6) **Position:**Block Manager-Farm Livelihoods. **Location:** Taluk Mission Management Unit at Taluk(Anekal, Bengaluru East, North and South) **Qualification**:M.Sc.(Agri) and allied sciences of farm sector with minimum 01 years of field level work experience in relevant field or B.Sc.(Agri)allied sciences of farm sector with minimum 03 years of field level work experience in relevant field.**Experiance:** 3+ Years of Experience in relevant Field.**Remuneration** Rs.25000/-Per Month .**Age** Below 45 Years. **No of Post**- 4

7) **Position:**Block Manager-Non-Farm Livelihoods. **Location:**Taluk Mission Management Unit at Taluk(Anekal and Bengaluru North) **Qualification**:Post-Graduate. **Experiance:** 3 Years of Experience in relevant Field. **Remuneration** Rs 25000/Per Month. **Age** Below 45 Years.**No of Post**-2

8) **Position:**Cluster Supervisor **Location:**Taluk Mission Management Unit at Taluk (Bengaluru East, North and South) **Qualification**:Graduation **Experiance:** 2 Years Post qualification relevant experience. Reading, writing(including typing)& speking skill in Kannada & English Knowledge of working with Computer **Remuneration** Rs.18000/Per Month **Age** Below 45 Years. **No of Post**-3

9) **Position:**Cluster Supervisor skill.**Location:**Taluk Mission Management Unit at Taluk(Anekal, Bengaluru South and East) **Qualification**:Graduation. **Experiance:** 3 Years of Expenence in relevant Field.**Remuneration** Rs.18000/Per Month. **Age** Below 45 Years. **No of Post**-3

Apply only Through online Application **Weblink:http://jobsksrips.karnataka.gov.in.** Last Date for Submission of Application: **31.12.2025,** Contact Person, Pavithra -Mobile Number- **91646 08888 / 9739579888.**

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer,
Bangalore Urban Zilla Pahchayath, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/4466/SSC/2025-26

Ousmane Dembele (left) and Aitana Bonmati pose with their FIFA Best award spoils. X

Dembele, Bonmati scoop FIFA Best awards

PARIS, AFP: France and Paris Saint-Germain attacker Ousmane Dembele won the men's FIFA Best award at a ceremony in Qatar on Tuesday while Barcelona midfield maestro Aitana Bonmati collected the women's prize.

Dembele, 28, won the Ballon d'Or in September, rewarding an exceptional season with PSG, which included the Ligue 1 club's first Champions League title.

"I wanted to thank my team-mates. Hard work pays off, it's been a fantastic year for me, both individually and collectively," said Dembele after the ceremony, which took place on the eve of the Intercontinental Cup final between PSG and Flamengo, also being held in Qatar.

Former Borussia Dortmund and Barcelona forward Dembele, who was part of the France team that won the World Cup in 2018, scored 35 goals in all competitions as PSG claimed a French league and cup double as well as European glory.

Winners: Best FIFA Men's Player: Ousmane Dembele; **Best FIFA Women's Player:** Aitana Bonmati; **Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper:** Gianluigi Donnarumma; **Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper:** Hannah Hampton; **Best FIFA Men's Coach:** Luis Enrique; **Best FIFA Women's Coach:** Sarina Wiegman; **FIFA Marta Award:** Lizbeth Ovalle; **FIFA Puskas Award:** Santiago Montiel; **FIFA Fan Award:** Fans of Zakho SC; **FIFA Fair Play Award:** Dr Harlass-Neuking, SSV Jahn Regensburg.

2026 WC winners to pocket $50 million

The winners of the 2026 World Cup will receive $50 million in prize money as part of a record financial contribution for the tournament from FIFA, world football's governing body announced on Wednesday, reports AFP from Paris.

The total World Cup prize fund of $655 million (558.5 million euros) represents an increase of almost 50 percent from the $440 million distributed to teams taking part in the last tournament in Qatar in 2022.

CRICKET 4TH T20I

Match called off due to smog

Series to be decided in Ahmedabad which will host the final game

LUCKNOW, PTI

The fourth T20 International between India and South Africa was called off without a ball being bowled on Wednesday due to poor visibility caused by dense layer of smog at the Ekana Stadium here.

The toss was delayed as a blanket of smog enveloped the ground, and following multiple inspections, the umpires eventually abandoned the match.

India lead the five-match series 2-1.

India's captain Suryakumar Yadav (right) makes a point to BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla (third from right) as Head Coach Gautam Gambhir (fourth from right) looks on before the fourth T20I against South Africa in Lucknow was called off on Wednesday. PTI

Gill injured

Out-of-form India vice-captain Shubman Gill has been ruled out of the last T20I game against South Africa with a toe injury, sources close to the team said.

It is learnt that Gill sustained the injury during training session and all precautionary measures are being taken to ensure his speedy recovery.

"Shubman had an extended batting session at the nets on the eve of the fourth T20 International. Towards the end of the session, he was hit on the toe while batting in the nets. He was in pain and was hobbling.

"It would have been difficult for him to play on Wednesday. Hence he didn't accompany the team (for the fourth T20I in Lucknow) as there was little chance of him playing this game.

"At this point it is difficult to say if he will play in Ahmedabad," a BCCI source said on conditions of anonymity.

With New Zealand T20Is being the last series before the T20 World Cup and the squad for that bilateral series and the marquee event set to be the same, the national selection committee as well as team management would like to take all necessary precautions with regards to one of their specialist top order batters.

Gill also missed the Test and ODI series against the Proteas due to a neck injury sustained on the second day of the opening game in Kolkata which required two-day hospitalisation. He missed the Guwahati Test and the following ODI series where he was supposed to captain the team. He was declared fit by the Centre of Excellence (CoE) ahead of the T20I series even as critics have been questioning his place in the side ahead of Sanju Samson, who had hit three centuries in the preceding season.

Gill's returns for the T20 series have been low with 4 and 0 in the first two outings followed by a run-a-ball 28 in the third game in Dharamsala, where he didn't look in his elements.

However, the entire coaching staff headlined by Gautam Gambhir has firmly backed their star batter to come good at the T20 World Cup starting February, next year.

Rahul, Prasidh in Karnataka squad for Vijay Hazare

Karnataka on Wednesday included KL Rahul (**in pic**), and Prasidh Krishna in their squad for the upcoming Vijay Hazare Trophy, in line with the BCCI's recent directive encouraging national players to feature in domestic competitions, reports DHNS.

The BCCI had earlier mandated that all current India players must make themselves available for at least two Vijay Hazare Trophy matches, citing the three-week window between India's final T20I against South Africa in Ahmedabad on December 19 and the opening ODI against New Zealand on January 11, 2026.

Karnataka squad: Mayank Agarwal (captain), Devdutt Padikkal, Karun Nair (vice-captain), R Smaran, KL Shrijith, Abhinav Manohar, Shreyas Gopal, Vyshak Vijayakumar, L Manvanth Kumar, Shreesha S Achar, Abhilash Shetty, BR Sharath, Harshit Dharmani, Dhruv Prabhakar, KL Rahul, Prasidh Krishna.

Tennis stars shine as WTL begins

Hawks, Eagles draw first blood on opening day

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

For the Indian players in fray at the World Tennis League, it is a four-day crash course on 'what you need to do to chase your dreams' while rubbing shoulders with some of the world's best.

For the international stars at the franchise-based event, it is four days of active rest sessions during off season and an opportunity to give back to the sport as mentors.

Such exchange of pro tips, light-hearted conversations in between some serious and some playful serves, backhands and forehands were on display at the decked-up SM Krishna Tennis Stadium as the fourth edition of the WTL got underway here on Wednesday.

The opening tie, on a sunny afternoon in Cubbon Park, saw VB Realty Hawks defeat Aussie Mavericks Kites 25-21. India's young talent Maaya Revathi teamed-up with world No. 14 Elina Svitolina to get the Hawks to a winning start as the duo beat world No. 26 Marta Kostyuk and the country's seasoned pro Ankita Raina of the Kites 7-5. Ukraine's Svitolina extended Hawks' lead by downing her fellow country-woman Kostyuk 7-5.

Nick Kyrgios and Dhakshineswar Suresh pulled one back for the Kites by beating Denis Shapovalov and Yuki Bhambri (6-4). Going into the fourth and final one-set tie with a tiny lead, world No. 23 Shapovalov got the better of Suresh (7-5) to help Hawks fly away with a win.

With the floodlights now lighting up the facility, AOS Eagles edged past third edition winners Game Changers Falcons 18-16. Even though Eagles' and world No. 25 Paula Badosa lost the opener 4-6 to less fancied Magda Linette, the Spaniard joined forces with India's top-ranked male singles player Sumit Nagal to win the mixed doubles 6-1 against Falcons' former world No. 1 doubles specialist Rohan Bopanna and partner Linette.

Falcons then captured the men's doubles ties (Daniil Medvedev/ Bopanna beat Gael Monfils/ Nagal 6-2) before 39-year-old Frenchman Monfils outclassed Medvedev 6-3.

In a tournament meant to entertain through tennis, there was also drama when a section of the crowd began protesting at the beginning of the first contest. The jazzed up player tunnel entry blocking their view of the court angered the ones seated behind it as play was suspended for a few minutes before moving the crowd to the adjacent centre stands.

As for on court theatrics, the normally poker-faced Medvedev flashed a beaming smile for the fans, chair umpire John Blom disciplined Kyrgios' tantrums saying 'Nick, please sit down!' and Monfils bounced, danced and got the crowds on their feet. The 'Tennis-tainment' also had Bollywood stars offering their two cents on the sport during their two minutes stay at the stadium. Right!

Results: VB Realty Hawks: 25 bt Aussie Mavericks Kites: 21 (Elina Svitolina/ Maaya Revathi bt Marta Kostyuk/ Ankita Raina 7-5; Svitolina bt Kostyuk 7-5; Denis Shapovalov/ Yuki Bhambri lt to Nick Kyrgios/ Dhakshineswar Suresh 4-6; Shapovalov bt Suresh 7-5).
AOS Eagles: 18 bt Game Changers Falcons: 16 (Paula Badosa lt to Magda Linette 4-6; Sumit Nagal/ Badosa bt Rohan Bopanna/ Linette 6-1; Gael Monfils/ Nagal lt to Daniil Medvedev/ Bopanna 2-6; Monfils bt Medvedev 6-3).

Chelsea ease pressure on coach Maresca

london, afp: Chelsea provided support for unsettled boss Enzo Maresca as they survived a scare from third-tier Cardiff to reach the League Cup semi-finals with a 3-1 win on Tuesday.

Maresca's side took the lead thanks to Alejandro Garnacho's strike early in the second half of the quarterfinal in the Welsh capital.

Chelsea were pushed hard by the gritty League One leaders, who equalised through David Turnbull's thumping header.

But the Blues delivered a

Alejandro Garnacho

welcome tonic for Maresca after his recent outburst, as Pedro Neto and Garnacho struck in the closing stages.

When Maresca faced the media on Monday, the Italian refused to clarify his explosive claim after Saturday's 2-0 win over Everton that the previous 48 hours had been his worst at Stamford Bridge because he and his team lacked "support" from "many people".

Barca progress to last 16

Late strikes from Andreas Christensen and Marcus Rashford secured a hard-fought 2-0 victory for Barcelona against third-tier side Guadalajara on Tuesday, sending the Catalans through to the last 16 of the Copa del Rey, reports Reuters.

Barcelona laboured for much of the match, holding over 80% of possession but struggling to break down a disciplined Guadalajara defence.

Bagan hit with a year ban

KOLKATA, PTI: At a time when Indian football is staring at unprecedented uncertainty with its domestic season in limbo, the Asian Football Confederation on Wednesday delivered a triple blow to the country's top club, Mohun Bagan, slapping a continental ban and imposing fines to the tune of USD 100,729 (INR 91 lakh approx) for withdrawing from the AFC Champions League Two.

The AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee ruled that the club wrongfully withdrew from the Champions League Two following their refusal to travel to Iran for a group-stage match against Sepahan SC and handed one-season ban from AFC competition.

In a separate decision, the committee fined the All India Football Federation USD 1,000 for delaying the restart of the second half during India's AFC Asian Cup 2027 final-round qualifier against Bangladesh on November 18.

The committee found that the AIFF's representatives caused a delay of 1:43 seconds after the break.

Kites' Nick Kyrgios (left) and D Suresh during their doubles tie against Hawks at the WTL at SM Krishna Stadium in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

Carey, Khawaja lift Australia

ADELAIDE, AFP

An emotional Alex Carey (**in pic**) slammed a majestic 106 on his home ground and Usman Khawaja hit a defiant 82 on Wednesday to put Australia in the driving seat of the third Ashes Test against England.

Batting after captain Pat Cummins won the toss as temperatures topped 36 Celsius at Adelaide Oval, the hosts were 326-8 at stumps on day one after the shock of Steve Smith being ruled out with illness.

Mitchell Starc was not out 33 and Nathan Lyon yet to score. "To make a hundred here in front of home fans and family was special," an emotional Carey told Australian TV.

As he celebrated his maiden Ashes ton, Carey gestured towards the sky in a nod to his father Gordon, who died from cancer in September.

"I guess you know as well why I was looking to the heavens. I'm trying not to tear up. But, no, it was great."

The wicketkeeper's wife Eloise was spotted in tears by TV cameras as he celebrated. "To have, mum, brother, sister, Eloise, the kids (here), it was a special moment," Carey added.

A tireless Jofra Archer ended with 3-29 on a tough day for England's bowlers in the field.

"I thought it was a good performance from our bowlers, the heat took us a bit by surprise," said England bowling coach David Saker. "The boys toiled away. (Archer) had a point to prove, he sustained his pace and bowled at the stumps, and he was well supported."

Australia lead the five-Test series 2-0 and will retain the Ashes if they win or draw, after back-to-back eight-wicket thumpings in Perth and Brisbane.

Smith, who has more than 10,000 runs, had been feeling unwell in the lead-up but was on Tuesday named in the side.

Brief scores: Australia: 326/8 in 83 overs (Usman Khawaja 82, Alex Carey 106, Josh Inglis 32, Mitchell Starc 33 n.o.; Jofra Archer 3-29, Brydon Carse 2-70, Will Jacks 2-105) vs England.

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